

THE TIMES

Tomorrow

Night must fall... and what goes on when it does? Tomorrow, *Modern Times* talks, bleary-eyed, to the people who come alive as the rest of the nation goes to sleep.

On the books page: Bryan Appleyard reviews Buckminster Fuller's recipe for world salvation. Richard Holmes finds a new conservative streak in Tom Wolfe and Mary Cash reports on a "stunning" recreation of the last days of Oscar Wilde.

Strike ends as BSC retreat

Striking steel workers in South Yorkshire were told to go back to work by the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation after the British Steel Corporation backed down on the imposition of redundancies and new shift arrangements

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US owns 50pc of Sotheby's

Sotheby's, the London-based fine art auctioneers at the centre of a £50m takeover battle, is now believed to be more than 50 per cent owned by American interests

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Reagan appeal

President Reagan asked Morocco to mediate between the PLO and Jordan after they failed to agree on a common approach to Middle East peace, senior Arab diplomats said in Rabat

Middle East news, page 6

Phone box loss

Nearly 17,000 of Britain's 77,000 public telephone boxes will disappear if British Telecom is sold to private investors. Mr Alan Tuffin, general secretary of the Union of Communication Workers, claimed

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Back to Siberia

Six Pentecostalists left the American embassy in Moscow, where they have been for nearly five years, to return to Siberia in the hope that the Soviet authorities will let them emigrate

Page 5

Gold fraud trial

A key figure allegedly involved in a £2m VAT gold fraud used a false name and "totally vanished", a court was told

Page 3

Walesa meeting

Mr Lech Walesa, who held a three-day conference with underground Solidarity leaders to "coordinate the position" of the banned Polish free trade union, according to a communiqué read by his wife

Page 5

Banker's call

Agencies like the International Monetary Fund and World Bank should play a bigger role in channelling international capital flows, Sir Jeremy Morse, chairman of Lloyds Bank, said

Page 13

Flood alerts

Shipping on the Rhine and Mosel rivers was halted and disaster alerts were declared in the cities of Bonn, Cologne and Trier as flooding spread through south-western Germany

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Rare Master

Severiano Ballesteros adopted a rare conservative approach in winning the Masters golf tournament for the second time at Augusta, Georgia

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Leader page 11

Letters: On post-coital pill from Professor Gianville Williams, QC; Cambodian refugees from Mr M Barber and others; Third World aid, from Mr H Murray

Leading articles: Gibraltar Controller and Auditor-General; European security policy

Features, pages 8-10

Bernard Levin asks how many women should be in the mother of parliaments; More blood on the black spots in South Africa; What the Ghandi oscars are to the British film industry

Spectrum: British arts bite the Big Apple. Wednesday Page

Depo-Provera—a drug on trial

Interest rate set to reach 10pc this week

Expectations of lower interest rates, higher company profits and confidence in an economic recovery pushed the FT 30 share index up by 3.8 points to 687.7. Sterling gained another 1.45 cents to \$1.5415 on stable oil prices, hopes of an early Conservative election victory and a strengthening international economy. Interest rates are likely to fall this week, with bank base rates being cut by a half point to 10 per cent. Firmed sterling and Volcker, US Federal Reserve chairman.

By Peter Wilson-Smith and Frances Williams

Bank base rates are virtually certain to fall this week from 10½ to 10 per cent after yesterday's performance in the markets. Share prices hit new records and sterling rose strongly against leading currencies.

The City is convinced that the clearing banks will cut base rates by the end of the week, despite tough action taken by the Bank of England to prevent rates falling too far too fast.

The FT Index of 30 leading shares closed at a record 687.7 yesterday—up 3.8 points on the day. The market has been racing ahead because of the trend towards lower interest rates. At one stage it was up 6.5 points but a big £77.2m share issue from GKN, one of the country's leading engineering companies, took some of the steam out of the rise.

The pound has staged a dramatic recovery as fears of an oil price war have receded. It was in demand again yesterday, adding to the big gains of the previous day.

Hopes of an early election leading to a Conservative victory have also helped and the pound closed up 1.45 cents

NCB's £115m loss threatens pits

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The National Coal Board lost and the recent strike in South Wales over the closure of Ty Mawr-Lewis Merthyr colliery, further substantial drop in UK coal consumption that is likely to accelerate pit closures.

Leaders of the three mining unions were given that gloomy forecast of the industry's fortunes yesterday at the first top-level consultative meeting attended by Mr Arthur Scargill, left-wing president of the National Union of Mineworkers, since he took office more than a year ago.

Mr Scargill said afterwards: "We have made the coal board make a statement or present statistics that confirm the view that I have expressed and the union has expressed that the NCB and the Government intend to inflict savage pit closures on the mining industry."

According to up-to-date figures given to the mining unions by Mr Norman Siddall, outgoing chairman of the coal board, the state enterprise will record an overall deficit of £115m for 1982-83 after interest charges and agreed deficit grants.

Of that figure, £70m is being attributed to disputes in the industry, including sympathy strikes in support of the health workers last summer, an abortive overtime ban last autumn and agreed deficit grants.

The management is scaling down its overall sales prospects for 1983-84 to 116 million tonnes, of which 104 million tonnes would come from deep-mined sources and the rest from opencast sites.

At the same time output from new mines, including the Selby colliery, will practically double to about three million tonnes, and other new capacity at existing pits will come on stream.

The inescapable conclusion of these figures is that the coal board will seek further pit closures at a more rapid rate than hitherto. Only eight pits, closed in the last financial year, and two were merged.

Ironically, the miners are working harder while the market for their product shrinks. In the last quarter of the financial year productivity was up by 4 to 5 per cent.

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Continued on back page, col 3

Pressure mounts in war widows campaign

By Michael Horsell

A campaign for Government assistance to enable Second World War widows to visit the overseas graves of their husbands gathered momentum yesterday in the wake of the Falklands pilgrimage by next-of-kin.

Baroness Jeger tabled a question in the House of Lords asking the Government to reconsider its refusal to help widows who have never been able to pay their last respects.

British War Widows and Associates, the organization which has been campaigning for free travel for next-of-kin, is also to ask Sir John King

chairman of British Airways, who arranged free flights to the Falklands' bereaved, to give his support.

The Government stands by the arrangements introduced in 1967 which allow—though not retrospectively—next-of-kin and a companion to travel free to visit the grave of a serviceman buried overseas within two years of the burial. It was under this arrangement that the Falklands visit went ahead.

After the Second World War some financial assistance was given to relatives to visit cemeteries in Europe,

but the same family would have to eat fish and chips every day of the year to offset the extra hours needed to pay the mortgage, and twice a day to compensate for the rise in the council house rent.

According to Treasury figures, the average working man now has to work fewer hours to earn fish and chips for his family than he did four years ago.

But the same family would have to eat fish and chips every day of the year to offset the extra hours needed to pay the mortgage, and twice a day to compensate for the rise in the council house rent.

The Treasury calculations show that a married man with two children on average male earnings now has to work nearly 6½ hours a week to pay the rent

to pay for them than four years ago, the Treasury estimates. Half a pound of tea costs 14 minutes, 4 minutes less than in 1978, while 2lb of cod fillet is 10 minutes cheaper at 1 hour 5 minutes. A large white sliced loaf costs 10½ minutes, the same as in 1978.

Cod and tea require less work

Number of minutes needed to earn after tax, the price of:

Oct 1978 1982

1982

| | Oct 1978 | 1982 |
|--|----------|------|
| 3lb beef shin | 203 | 220 |
| 2lb cod fillet | 75 | 65 |
| 1lb tea | 23 | 41 |
| large white loaf | 105 | 131 |
| 2 pints milk | 15 | 15 |
| 5 pds 4-star petrol | 151 | 225 |
| weekly season ticket (Suburban/London) | 227 | 265 |
| 20 cigarettes | 22 | 27 |
| print of paper | 16 | 15 |

Source: Treasury

Families would have done well to cut down on chips last year. Potato prices soared because of the bad winter weather, with 14lb of spuds needing 41 minutes work compared with 23 minutes in 1978. But prices have since subsided to more normal levels, making fish and chips the bargain meal.

The good life, however, comes dear these days. Three hours 40 minutes are needed to earn the price of 3lb of steak. A bottle of whisky would be 30 minutes cheaper.

Travelling is enough to drive a man to overtime. He would have to work for three hours 45 minutes to pay for five gallons of four-star petrol, compared with two hours 31 minutes in 1978.

Climax of a magnificent obsession



Success at last: Sir Richard Attenborough and Ben Kingsley with their awards last night.

Eight-Oscar 'Gandhi' triumphs in Hollywood

By Iver Davis

Hollywood

Sir Richard Attenborough's 20-year magnificent obsession

of his film *Gandhi*, last night

monopolized the 55th Academy Awards ceremony in Hollywood by winning eight Oscars—more than any other British film in Academy history.

Gandhi won the plus awards

for best picture, best director

and best actor (Ben Kingsley).

He said fast economic

growth and higher living

standards depended on improving

competitiveness through lower

tariffs, productivity gains, or

better product quality and

innovation or research and

development.

He added: "No British film

in history has ever won this

number of Oscars—*not Lawrence of Arabia, not Bridge on the River Kwai or Oliver!.*"

Surrounded by a tableau of

gold statuettes, Sir Richard

said wryly: "Nobody believed

in the story of a little brown

man dressed in a sheet carrying

a bay peacock."

Indeed, as has already been

chronicled, Sir Richard

fought for two decades for

the privilege of bringing the life

story of Mahatma Gandhi to

the screen, even though financial

doctors were shammed in his

face. He finally got his funds

from British, Indian and

Canadian sources.

Not content with the "cream" awards, *Gandhi* also

collected Oscars for costume,

art direction, cinematography,

editing and screenwriting.

It completely overran all

opposition including the Ameri-

can box office sensation *ET*,

which has so far taken \$350m

at the box office. Steven

Spielberg's fable about the

endearing creature from outer

New rules for Scots schools

The Government is going ahead in Scotland with a plan for school examinations and curricula which it appears to have rejected as impractical for England and Wales.

Scottish secondary school children from next year will have a "core curriculum" of English, mathematics and science, with a limited number of options. At the age of 16 there will be a new common certificate showing that pupils have completed courses arranged at three levels of competence.

Yet in England and Wales the Department of Education and Science has deferred plans to introduce a common curriculum and is hesitating over a common certificate for 16-year-olds that would replace the "ordinary level" certificate.

The Government's plans call for about 250 additional teachers and a £3m-a-year supplement to the grant to councils.

Mills victory in TUC election

A left-wing move to prevent Mr Lief Mills, general secretary of the Banking, Insurance and Finance union, from becoming a member of the TUC General council was heavily defeated yesterday. (Barrie Clement writes).

But Mr Mills, the first union leader to be elected under a new system of representation on the TUC, was not voted on "for life", as some right-wing elements had wanted. Instead the union's annual delegate conference at Blackpool decided that he should retain the seat for a year and then stand for re-election.

Cowley strike sanction near

The Transport and General Workers' Union was on the brink yesterday of making the washing-up strike at the BII plant at Cowley official. The Midlands regional committee has recommended the national executive to do so and Mr Robert Fryer, the union's senior shop steward at the Oxford plant, said yesterday that such "recommendations are usually accepted."

The latest terms offered by Austin Rover to end the strike, now in its third week, will be put to the 5,000 strikers tomorrow.

Forged coins scare unfounded

Lloyd's Bank said yesterday that a public scare that large numbers of forged 50p coins were in circulation was caused by unfounded rumours which apparently started with the dropping of the "New" from "New pence" on the coin last year.

The bank said it had been inundated with calls from shopkeepers and members of the public concerned about possible forged coins.

Rector's service for dead boy

Prebendary Geoffrey Lester, the Rector of Bath Abbey, said yesterday that at the request of the mother of a boy who died after an accident involving his car, he had conducted the funeral service for her son.

Mr Lester said he officiated at the service at the abbey for Lee Nazzier, aged 12, after the boy's mother requested it when he visited her after the accident.

Soldier cleared of selling medal

The Army has cleared Private David Butler, who fought in the Falklands campaign at Goose Green beside Lieutenant-Colonel H. Jones, VC, of allegations that he sold his Falklands medal.

It was accepted that the medal was lost before it turned up in Bournemouth, where dealers offered it for sale for £250.

Jet death crash

The pilot of a single-seat Royal Netherlands Air Force Starfighter jet was killed when his aircraft crashed while flying over Northumberland, yesterday. He was second Lieutenant M. Sastrom-Harkema, aged 26, from south Holland.

We are told the economy is picking up, yet unemployment continues to rise throughout the country. Can you be sure your job is secure?

IF YOU WANT TO SURVIVE THE DOWNWAVE TURN TO PAGE 8

Steel strikers return as BSC yields on redundancy

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

A return to work by striking steel workers in South Yorkshire was ordered last night by leaders of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation after the state-owned British Steel Corporation backed down on the imposition of redundancies over new working arrangements.

About 8,000 steel men have been on strike in the Sheffield and Rotherham area for nine days over the corporation's attempt to make 85 workers compulsorily redundant. They are now being given the option to stay, but all except six have chosen to accept voluntary redundancy pay-offs.

The strike began when two of those due to be made redundant by the introduction of new shift structures at Aldwarke and Templeborough works refused to accept management instructions. They sent home and other workers came out on strike in support.

Mr William Sirs, general secretary of the confederation, said last night: "We have won some major concessions from the corporation. What we are most pleased about is that they have agreed on future that they will go through the procedure."

"It was the imposition of redundancies and new working practices that our men felt most keenly. They are human beings and need to be treated as such."

British Steel declined to comment other than to say: "We welcome the decision to return to work". But the corporation is understood to have agreed in talks lasting 10 hours in Sheffield on Monday that the management will not seek to impose changes in working practices or redundancy

Timex workers who for five days have been staging an occupation of the company's factory in Dundee have appealed to Mr Michael Foot, the Opposition leader, for support in their campaign against threatened compulsory redundancies (our Labour Correspondent writes).

Leaders of the 700 workers at the Milton of Craigie complex have written to Mr Foot asking for a public declaration of backing for their occupation, which is being carried out by about a hundred of the workforce.

They are objecting to the company's plans to make 197 workers compulsorily redundant in addition to the 1,700 jobs which have disappeared through voluntary severance

Journalists to defy police Bill clause

From David Felton
Labour Correspondent
Dundee

Journalists are being urged to defy provisions of the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill, now going through the House of Commons, if it means that they would be forced to disclose sources of confidential information.

The annual conference of the National Union of Journalists in Dundee yesterday unanimously backed a proposal by the executive that its members should not comply with disclosure orders made under the new legislation to provide police with confidential documents and records.

The orders, which would be signed by a magistrate, would enable the police investigating a "serious arrestable offence" to enter journalists' homes and offices and search for documents which might be involved in their investigations.

Mr Vincent Hanna, a member of the NUJ executive, said the proposed legislation would lead the police into "fishing expeditions through confidential documents". It would be difficult for journalists to guarantee anonymity to their sources if they knew police would have access to their records.

The proposals would be "a massive, unprecedented and unacceptable change in the law of the country", Mr Hanna said. The proposal that search warrants would have to be authorized by a magistrate was no real safeguard and would make such warrants "easier to get than driving lessons".

The union ought to be concerned at such an infringement of journalists' liberty, and should oppose the legislation, including defying the disclosure orders. He promised that any NUJ member threatened under the new laws would be defended by the union. The executive is to prepare guidelines for journalists.

Lawyers' pressure

The Law Society is urging its 40,000 solicitor members in England and Wales to lobby MPs in a last effort to change the Bill (Our Legal Affairs Correspondent writes).

The society, one of the Bill's fiercest critics, says the hub of its representations on it is that it "increases the powers of the police without providing adequate safeguards against abuse of those powers".

In particular, it says in an article in today's *Law Society's Gazette*, the Bill fails to provide for compulsory tape recording of police interviews with suspects, or a system of independent prosecutors, both of which would balance the new police powers.

On the controversial search powers, which apply to confidential, non-privileged communications in solicitors' hands, the society says all police applications should be to a High Court judge.

The North-west, however, has also been the scene of a



On the run: Mr Brian Hayes (right), the Chief Constable of Surrey, training with fellow officers for the London Marathon on Sunday. He is running to raise money for charity.

Labour reallocates seats with speed

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

More than four Labour MPs have been reallocated new constituencies without challenge or contest under the party's new procedure for dealing with parliamentary boundary revision. As the Conservative selection of candidates for the new constituencies reaches its final stages, Labour's round of national selections has been launched with a speed and efficiency that has surprised many MPs.

However, the rules of behind-the-scenes deals under which many MPs and candidates are renouncing claims on portions of their old, redistributed constituencies in exchange for a clear run in new constituencies.

Those contests which have been held so far have been staged between MPs and, or, candidates with territorial claims on a new constituency and with no politically viable alternative.

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Poll boost for Irish Government

From Richard Ford
Belfast

The Irish Republic's coalition Government received a considerable boost yesterday with an opinion poll showing that they have a nine-point lead over the Opposition, after a savage budget and at a time when they face a growing tax revolt from the trade unions.

Thousands of trade unionists will take part today in a half-day stoppage, with demonstrations in Dublin and 15 other centres against the country's tax system and the coalition's February budget.

Experts of the Royal Society of Chemistry were divided sharply on what might be done about acid rain because of the complexity of the chemical reaction in the atmosphere which led to its formation.

For instance, Professor Norman Davies, director of the aerosol research laboratory at Essex University, suggested that acid rain might best be combated not by shutting coal-fired power stations but by introducing tight controls on another source of pollution, from cars, and petrochemicals and oil-burning processes.

He argued that the discharged hydrocarbons provided the agents for photochemical reactions with sulphur materials in fact with sulphur and nitrous materials to produce acid rain. Over the long term, however, Professor Davies espoused the need for nuclear power to replace coal burning as an essential way of cutting acid rain.

Four armed and masked men broke into their home at Quigley's Point, in co Donegal. The raiders snatched Mrs Fingleton and their son Kevin, demanded a ransom and fled to the village of Carndonagh, where they were holding another person hostage at a house.

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PARLIAMENT April 12 1983

Minister attacked from both sides over CABs

COMMONS

The Government is to hold an early and independent review of the staff and efficiency of the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux by management consultants or by Department of Trade inspectors, Dr Gerard Vaughan, Minister for Consumer Affairs announced in a statement in the Commons. He maintained that the steps he was taking in connection with the citizens advice bureaux had nothing to do with the current Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament campaign. The steps had first been noted some months ago.

All I am seeking from the association (he said), is an assurance that improper activities are not taking place which will be countered. In his statement on the action he had taken on the grant-in-aid to the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, Dr Vaughan said the organization fulfilled an important national and local role which the Government fully supported.

I must make it absolutely clear, he said, that the full confidence in the citizens advice bureaux movement as a whole. It is a fine example of volunteers and professionals working together for the good of the community.

Our support has been shown by the rapid increase in this Government's funding in 1970-80, it was £1.85m; in 1980-81, £4.02m; in 1981-82, £4.91m; £5.75m in 1982-83; and not £20m in 1983-84.

This support does not go directly to the local bureaux which receive some £10m from local authorities; the Government grant goes to NACAB, the central body, and is used to finance a range of support services for all bureaux.

But increases of this order can have disadvantages and I felt it proper to inquire if the money was being used effectively. I started looking at this in June last year, when I saw one of the officials which I have from time to time to me that there have been without a permanent director from April 1982 to February 1983.

That is one aspect that has concerned me. The other has been allegations of changing attitudes within some citizens advice bureaux and the taking of campaigns which some people have seen as going outside the generally accepted scope of the service.

For example a local chairman resigned recently after 30 years in the service out of disgust at what was happening in his area, and of course I raised the National Association of CABs to look into this.

I am glad to say the NACAB now have a permanent director and I welcome this. In my letter to the chairman on March 21 I said I was not sure whether the present level of grant was correct; and that I intended to authorize a six month grant with a review thereafter.

In this context I said I would expect the association to tell me in good time before the middle of the year how it is dealing with the various matters I have raised with

ensure some adequate measure of democracy in them.

Mr Shirley Williams (Croydon, North) In the light of the damaging findings of the Wood enquiry, particularly in the new decade from Nedd, would he look again at the green paper to embrace proposals on industrial democracy and combine with the proposals for which he took from my party a proposal for a vote by shareholders before finance is made to the Conservative Party?

Mr Tebbit: I am not sure to which of her parties she refers - (laughter) - the old one or the new one. (Interruption) The new one she tells me. I can assure her I came to the conclusion these proposals were not anything else, for proposals that are put to the political party that are put to the party.

She is confusing democracy in the trade unions the subject of the green paper, which is about returning the property of the unions to those who

Crouch: Invaluable job

increase in Government funding in recent years.

Mr Richard Wainwright (Cotswold, North): This is mean-minded harassment of people who achieve a high ratio of public good to public cost, disregard of the Department of Trade. Who will contact the CND and now, and will it be accompanied by a stream of similar publicity?

Mr Peter Archer, chief Opposition spokesman on consumer affairs (Varley, West, Lab): The House will want to know what he said about his confidence in the CAB. Does he not appreciate that vague insinuations of the kind which have emerged over the weekend are grossly unfair and very damaging.

If he was withholding aid in consequence of complaints about the conduct of the CAB, then I would say that any specific detail should not yet have first been made specific and in detail to give the association the opportunity to answer them?

After hearing from the association about any outstanding complaints will be arranged for a proper investigation by an impartial investigator or withdraw all these allegation?

Dr Vaughan: There has been no cut. The grant is running at the same rate. All I have suggested is that it would be sensible to review the allocation of money and the management of the central system over six months. I have linked this closely with the appointment of the new director and review.

When it comes to individual complaints and investigations, I do not think it is for me to go into the detail of statements. The proper function of the organization is to run its own affairs. (Labour shouts of "Without money") - and to assure him and the House and the public that these affairs are properly conducted and that there is no substance in the various allegation that have been made.

Mr David Crouch (Canterbury, C): Many of us will regard his criticisms of the CAB as almost an insultation that they are not doing an effective job. In my view they do an invaluable job in explaining Government policy at all levels and Government activity and also making people aware of the benefits of Government help that are available to them which they may not otherwise discover.

They are an enormous help in the process and progress of democracy. I hope he will do nothing to discourage their activities and progress.

Dr Vaughan: I am glad to endorse the importance of the service which he has just drawn attention to. I think that is shown by the steady



Archer: Vague insinuations

improper activities are not taking place, will not be countenanced and will not take place.

Mr Robert McCracken (Brentwood and Ongar, C): Many of us are stout supporters of the CAB because of the great work they do for the less well-off people of this country.

Mr Douglas Jay (Wandsworth, Battersea North, Lab): Did he or did he not make statements about misuse of funds by Mrs Riddock which were quoted?

Dr Vaughan: I have never implied there was any misuse of funds. An inquiry was put to me as to how somebody who was thought to be a full-time paid employee of the organization was able to devote so much of his other time simply to conduct this inquiry. It is an inquiry, not a complaint and I was fully satisfied by the answer which the chairman gave me.

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition (Ebbw Vale, Lab): Referring to the loss of 300,000 jobs in the West Midlands in the past three years, asked: Are these figures in the NEDC report discussed yesterday when some Government ministers said that the report should be suppressed?

Can we tell us whether the report is suggesting that there will be no increase in jobs this decade? Does she agree with the report or disagree? What was the reason for the proposed suppression?

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, was challenged during questions Commons about the possible suppression of a report to the meeting of the National Economic Development Council on Monday stating that there would be no growth in employment this decade.

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Secret three-day conference

Walesa meets underground

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Mr Lech Walesa, the chairman of the banned Solidarity trade union, has held three days of secret talks with fugitive underground leaders to coordinate their strategies. The move, announced in a communiqué yesterday, has considerable symbolic value and shows that Mr Walesa is prepared to take more risks in expressing his criticism of government policies.

According to the brief communiqué read out by his wife on the telephone from Gdańsk, Mr Walesa met the underground "provisional coordinating commission" on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, and "discussed in detail the country's present situation and co-ordinated their positions."

Although that does not reveal very much, it is clear that the underground opposition is facing three important events in the coming months: the trial of

KOR dissidents who were Solidarity advisers; the expected protests on May Day and May 3; and the visit to Poland of the Pope in June.

Both Mr Walesa and the underground leaders are agreed that there should be no demonstrations during the Pope's visit — though not all underground Solidarity supporters are willing to accept this — and there is considerable common ground on other issues as well.

But this is the first announced meeting between what might be termed the Solidarity "underground" leadership and the underground. The idea of publicizing it may be to give the underground leadership more authority at a time when it feels increasingly that it is acting in a vacuum, and at the same time make it clear to Poles at large that Mr Walesa's loyalties are still with the banned trade union.

Two symptoms of the discontent that prompted the announcement of the meeting have come in recent days. One is the publication of a long document entitled: "Programme and Organization" by a Solidarity radical who writes under the pseudonym of Maciej Poleski.

This raises previously taboo subjects such as the use of force, the need for revolutionary cells and how to exploit the papal visit.

"Democracy should be strong enough to defend itself in case of emergency and not start to think of ways of defending itself at the moment of crisis", Mr Poleski writes in what is a clear challenge to the established underground leaders.

Mr Jerzy Urban, the government spokesman, seemed to suggest at a press conference yesterday that it was not necessarily illegal for Mr

Walesa or any private citizen to meet representatives of an illegal organization. However, if they discussed illegal acts, then Mr Walesa would have committed an offence.

It is not very likely that Mr

Walesa will be arrested and he himself is choosing to move step by step along his radical path. Asked whether Mr Walesa had any further plans, his wife said: "Let us wait for further developments." Mr Urban also confirmed that the son of Miss Anna Walentynowicz, the former crane driver and Solidarity activist, recently given a suspended jail term, had been arrested for tearing up a Polish flag. He is now free, awaiting a trial.

● Prisoner shot: Guards shot

dead a prisoner suspected of

armed robbery, when he tried to

escape from a jail in the eastern Polish city of Lublin, according to official news agency PAP, Reuter reports.



Leaving at last: Maria Chmykhalov, right, stands beside her son Timofei as they are visited by two other members of the family after deciding to return to Siberia.

Pentecostalists prepare to quit embassy

Moscow (AP) — Six religious dissidents who have spent five years in a US embassy haven hoping for Soviet permission to emigrate were preparing last night to leave the compound, a member of the group said.

The dissidents, members of the Pentecostal faith, believe they will receive exit visas ending a two-decade battle to get out of the Soviet Union. Lilia Vaschenko, aged 25, told a reporter: "They will be returning to their Siberian hometown to file the applications, she said.

Since last Wednesday, when another of their group, Lydia Vaschenko, aged 32, was allowed to leave the country, it

had been expected that the remaining six might also be given permission.

The Pentecostalists, five Vaschenkos and two members of another family, dashed past Soviet guards and into the embassy compound in June, 1978, in an attempt to leave what one called an "atheistic system in which we cannot live."

The guards became agitated as police seemed unable to control well-wishers, and it took a lot of shouting before a passage could be cleared.

After years of refusing to consider the request of the "Siberian Seven," as they came to be called, the Soviet authorities last month told Lydia to resubmit her application for an emigration permit. She returned to Chernogorsk, Siberia, and did so, and then flew to Austria. She is now in Israel.

The members of the group are Pyotr Vaschenko, aged 55, his wife, Augustina, aged 54, the three young Vaschenko women Lydia, Lubov, aged 30, and Lilia, and Maria Chmykhalov, aged 60, and her son, Timofei, aged 21.

"There is a hope we can emigrate," Lilia Vaschenko said. "We talked with some people and they said there is a good chance because Lydia is out... I hope that the Soviets will finally let us go." She said the people she spoke with were Americans, but she was not sure whether they were embassy officials.

Lubov Vaschenko said last week an American woman, Jane Drake of Montgomery, Alabama, had taken up the family's cause and was meeting her sister Lydia on her arrival in Vienna.

Lilia Vaschenko said yesterday that once they arrive in Chernogorsk they will probably have to wait two to four weeks for the arrival of a required invitation from Lydia to emigrate to Israel. The Vaschenkos are not Jewish, but Israel has been one of the most common destinations for would-be Soviet emigrants.

Rebels step up Afghan onslaught

From Graeme Forbes, PA Court Correspondent, Brisbane

Islamabad (Reuter) — Afghan rebels are fighting Soviet and Government troops in three provincial capitals. Western diplomats reported yesterday.

They said the fighting has seriously disrupted life in Herat, Kandahar and Gazni. Heavy guerrilla sniper fire along main roads had stopped supplies getting in.

The reports coincided with a frank admission over Kabul radio on Monday night that the war waged by Muslim guerrillas since Soviet troops moved in nearly three and a half years ago had badly damaged Afghanistan's economy.

Sultan Ali Kishman, the Prime Minister, said half of all hospitals and schools had been destroyed, road transport was in disarray, three-quarters of the communications lines were out of action, urgent repair work was needed on power and water supplies and large investment was needed in agriculture.

He called for stringent economy measures by all government departments and increased efforts to collect taxes to pay for the country's defence.

Western diplomats were surprised by the Prime Minister's picture of the Afghan economy. The Government had previously portrayed a country successfully going about its business despite attacks by its enemies it dismissed as criminals or bandits.

The diplomats said the change in strategy might be an attempt to win international support while United Nations-sponsored peace talks are in progress with Pakistan this week at Geneva.

Some diplomats also felt recent successes by guerrillas, including the cutting of highways and the blocking out of the capital, Kabul, might have left President Babrak Karmal's administration no choice but to turn to the Soviets for help.

Diplomats who have access to information from Kabul said that in the latest fighting the rebels were virtually in complete control of Afghanistan's main western city of Herat, capital of a province which borders Iran and the Soviet Union.

They said that during the day government forces controlled only small areas around the main administrative buildings while at night the city belonged to the guerrillas.

The situation was similar in Kandahar, capital of a province bordering Pakistan. Normal life no longer existed in Kandahar. One report said more than 70 per cent of the population had fled.

● GENEVA: About 60 members of the association of Afghans in Switzerland, some in national costume, demonstrated yesterday outside the Palais des Nations in Geneva, where secret discussions on the Afghanistan problem are in progress with delegations from Kabul and Islamabad. Alan McGregor writes.

They handed in an open letter to the United Nations Secretary-General, saying the essential precondition for any political solution was the "immediate, total and unconditional" withdrawal of Soviet troops, as requested by the UN general assembly.

Royal couple in another crush

From Graeme Forbes, PA Court Correspondent, Brisbane

The Prince and Princess of Wales were mobbed again yesterday when Queensland police lost control of a crowd of 2,500.

The royal couple made an unscheduled stop at a famous beauty spot, Alexandra Headland, as they drove to Maroochydore airport on their way to their farmhouse at Woombye.

Because the stop was an unscheduled event it was not policed. "There were only the police officers in the motorcade and they just could not cope with the crowds."

Large crowds, which had gathered to see the Prince and Princess when they visited a nut processing plant, also engulfed their car as they left to drive away.

The bodyguards became agitated as police seemed unable to control well-wishers, and it took a lot of shouting before a passage could be cleared.

Thorn fear on Britain's EEC refund

From George Clark, Strasbourg

In a speech full of warnings about crises lying ahead for the EEC, Mr Gaston Thorn, president of the European Commission, told the European Parliament yesterday that a refund for Britain to compensate for overpayments on contributions in 1983 could be held up if there was no agreement on the restructuring of Community finances in the long term.

After the March summit meeting in Brussels, it seemed that Mrs Margaret Thatcher had been given a guarantee that, pending the long-term solution, Britain would receive a refund this year.

Mr Thorn told MEPs that the summit had been disappointing. It had produced few tangible results and if there was a repetition at the Stuttgart summit in June the Community would be plunged into a serious crisis. It was essential, he said, that the summit should produce a solution on Community financing, energy policy, enlargement and industrial decline.

Referring to the British budgetary problem Mr Thorn said: "For the Commission it is only in the context of a long-term solution that we can consider the immediate and short-term problems." The Commission would stand by its commitment to the European Parliament on February 8 that it would strive for a long-term revision of the Community's financial structure.

That was why the Commission had not involved itself in the passage in the summit communiqué relating to the subsequent payment, he said.

Commission officials later explained that Mr Thorn wanted to indicate that the Commission would not come forward with a proposition on a refund to Britain this year until plans for a long-term solution were "on the table".

This view was supported by Mr Adam Ferguson, MEP for Strathclyde West, a spokesman for the Conservative group, who demonstrated how the British attitude to the European Parliament took a "U" turn.

In December last year there was anger among the Conservatives about the Parliament's decision to block the British rebate of £500m for 1982 and Mrs Thatcher also condemned the move.

But since then, both she and the Conservative group have come to realize that Parliament could be Mrs Thatcher's best ally in forcing the Community to revise its financing so that Britain and West Germany do not have to pay unfairly high contributions.

Troops sent to quell fresh Karachi riots

Karachi (Reuter) — Troops were sent to control a fresh outbreak of religious violence in Karachi yesterday, as thousands of Muslim demonstrators burnt shops, houses and cars. Police were unable to control Sunni crowds in the Liaquatabad area, during a confrontation between Sunnis and Shias.

About 700,000 people live in Liaquatabad, of whom some 95 per cent are Sunnis, the majority sect in Pakistan.

More than 6,000 people were said to have attacked a Shia meeting place about six miles north-east of Karachi's main shopping centre of Saddar. Another group of about 2,000 attacked a Shia mosque and made a bonfire of its furniture, while smaller groups set fire to shops and houses in the area.

Shia sources said about 30,000 people of their sect had already moved from Liaquatabad to other parts of Karachi after the clashes last month.

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Godfrey Davis

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Four-nation peace drive in Central America launched by Colombia

From Geoffrey Matthews, Bogota

Alarmed by continuing conflict in El Salvador, the danger of all-out war erupting between Honduras and Nicaragua and the intransigence of the United States towards Central America, the foreign ministers of four key Latin American countries embarked yesterday on a peace mission to the region, instigated by President Belisario Betancur of Colombia.

The Foreign Ministers of Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico and Panama are due to visit all five Central American republics (Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica) for talks with their counterparts, in an attempt to reduce tension.

The mission was not planned in advance, and was only agreed in Panama City on Sunday night, after Señor Betancur arrived on the final leg of a three-day trip which had also taken him to Venezuela and Mexico for talks on the Central American crisis.

The announcement was made yesterday by Señor Juan José Amado, the Panamanian Foreign Minister, after a long meeting with his colleagues from Venezuela, Colombia and Mexico.

After his discussions with President Luis Herrera Campins of Venezuela, President Miguel de la Madrid of Mexico, President Ricardo de la Espriella of Panama and President Luis Alberto Monge of Costa Rica, who was also visiting Panama at the weekend, Señor Betancur said that the Central American crisis was even worse than he had expected.

He described the situation as "truly explosive", and also hinted that he and his colleagues were becoming increasingly irritated by the Reagan Administration's hardline policy.

Señor Betancur called for the immediate withdrawal of all foreign military advisers from Central America, the suspension of arms sales to the region, respect for the right of its peoples to self-determination, negotiations between the conflicting parties and recognition that the source of the conflicts is widespread poverty and social injustice and not super-power politics.

The Colombian President

President Betancur: Taking a leading role.

Nkomo 'lost support of companies'

Non-racial unions try to form united front

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Harare (Reuters) - Two British companies have withdrawn financial and other support for Mr Joshua Nkomo, the exiled Opposition leader, because he broke a promise to return home last week, the pro-Government *Herald* newspaper reported yesterday.

Mr Nkomo said last week that he would remain in Britain indefinitely, after the publication in Zimbabwe of a Catholic bishops' statement alleging atrocities by government troops in his home province of Matabeleland.

The *Herald* reported a report from London that the firms, which it said had also withdrawn moral and political support, had spent £14,500 on Mr Nkomo and two aides since his flight.

Mr Nkomo, aged 65, fled Zimbabwe early last month, saying that Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, had ordered him to be killed.

The *Herald* report did not identify the companies sponsoring Mr Nkomo in Britain, saying only that they had holdings in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Kenya and other African states.

However, it appeared certain that one of them was London-based chief executive, Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, a close friend of Mr Nkomo. The company in London refused to comment. Dunlop has denied that it is the other company.

The companies had kept in touch with the Harare Government throughout the affair, the *Herald* said. Mr Nkomo had been told through them that the only actions pending against him in Zimbabwe would be charges of emerald trafficking and the relatively minor charge of currency violations.

Lesotho at war with Pretoria, Premier says

From Our Own Correspondent Johannesburg

Not long ago we were told the price of oil would continue to rise indefinitely. Now banks, heads of state and OPEC members are frantically trying to prevent too drastic a decline. What are the startling implications of this phenomenon?

IF YOU WANT TO SURVIVE THE DOWNWAVE TURN TO PAGE 8

Chief Lesotho Jonathan, the Prime Minister of Lesotho, has given his 1.3 million compatriots to accept that they are in an effective state of war with South Africa. He called on Basotho to bury their differences so as to enable the Kingdom better to face the onslaught. With all the world on its side, victory was assured.

Speaking in the National Assembly, Chief Jonathan said that the South African offensive was not limited to armed attacks. It was extended to the economy as was shown by what he claimed was a campaign to discourage tourists from coming to Lesotho.

Chief Jonathan also alleged that a situation was being created whereby the movement of goods through South Africa to landlocked Lesotho would become virtually impossible, especially for supplies of military equipment.

Thwarting the Byzantine politicians

From Rastin Gurdilek, Ankara

President Kenan Evren, Turkey's military leader, has indicated that he will pit his personal prestige to block any lingering influence by former politicians.

"We shall spare no efforts to foil their Byzantine intrigues," he said, calling on people to do the same and elect "brand new representatives" in general elections which are to be held in the autumn.

General Evren, in speeches at Denizli and Usak, blamed former politicians for failing to rise above their narrow interests.

The President pleaded for the old political labels of Republican and Justice parties not to keep the electorate divided into hostile camps. He also urged students not to allow their political views to foment clashes at the universities, which would be strictly "depolitized".

The universities have already been purged of academics considered too liberal or radical

Middle East: Lebanese stalemate; Foreign Secretary meets Husain

I must be governor, Haddad says

From Christopher Walker Methia

Major Saad Haddad, the temperamental south Lebanese militia commander, whose future has emerged as the main obstacle preventing agreement between Israel, Lebanon and American negotiators over the withdrawal of Israel's invasion force, threatened yesterday to resist any solution on which he had not been formally consulted.

Despite the flat refusal of the Beirut Government to offer its cashed officer any position in the new military set-up envisaged for Lebanon, Major Haddad is insisting on the position of "military governor of southern Lebanon".

Stating his terms publicly for the first time, he said: "I see my role as it is now, but it should be legitimized. I am effectively military governor of the south, and that must be made formal. If anyone wants to get rid of me, they will have to get rid of all the people in the south too, because they are behind me."

In an interview with *The Times*, he made no attempt to disguise his pent-up frustration, anger and anxiety about the possible outcome of the slow moving talks over Lebanon, or about mounting American pressure on Israel to modify its insistence that he be made commander of all Lebanese soldiers based in the 27-mile deep security belt.

According to Washington sources, this pressure reached a new peak last week when Mr William Casey, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, made a clandestine visit to Jerusalem in an apparently vain effort to convince ministers that the revamped Lebanese army is quite capable of preventing Palestinian guerrillas returning to menace Israel.

"I do not know what I have done to upset the Americans because for seven years I have been fighting against leftists and communists," the major told me.

Act now, Pym urges Israel and PLO

Amman (Reuters) - Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary said after talks with King Hussein of Jordan last night that there was no feasible alternative to President Reagan's plan as a starting point for the Middle East peace process.

He urged Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to seize the opportunity for peace "which will not recur and will not exist for much longer".

He was speaking at Amman airport after a three-hour stopover arranged after Jordan's announcement on Sunday that it had abandoned five months of talks with the PLO.

Mr Pym arrived in Amman on his way home from visits to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to hear King Hussein. But his statement said Britain and Jordan were agreed it would neither act alone nor by proxy in any peace negotiations.

He said the PLO and the Palestinians were free to follow their own course, but Jordan would continue to support Palestinians living in Israeli-occupied areas.

Mr Pym refused to answer reporters' questions about his working lunch with King Hussein. But his statement said Britain and Jordan were agreed all along that the priorities for the Middle East peace process were the withdrawal of Israeli and other foreign forces from Lebanon, freezing of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and using the Reagan plan as a starting point.

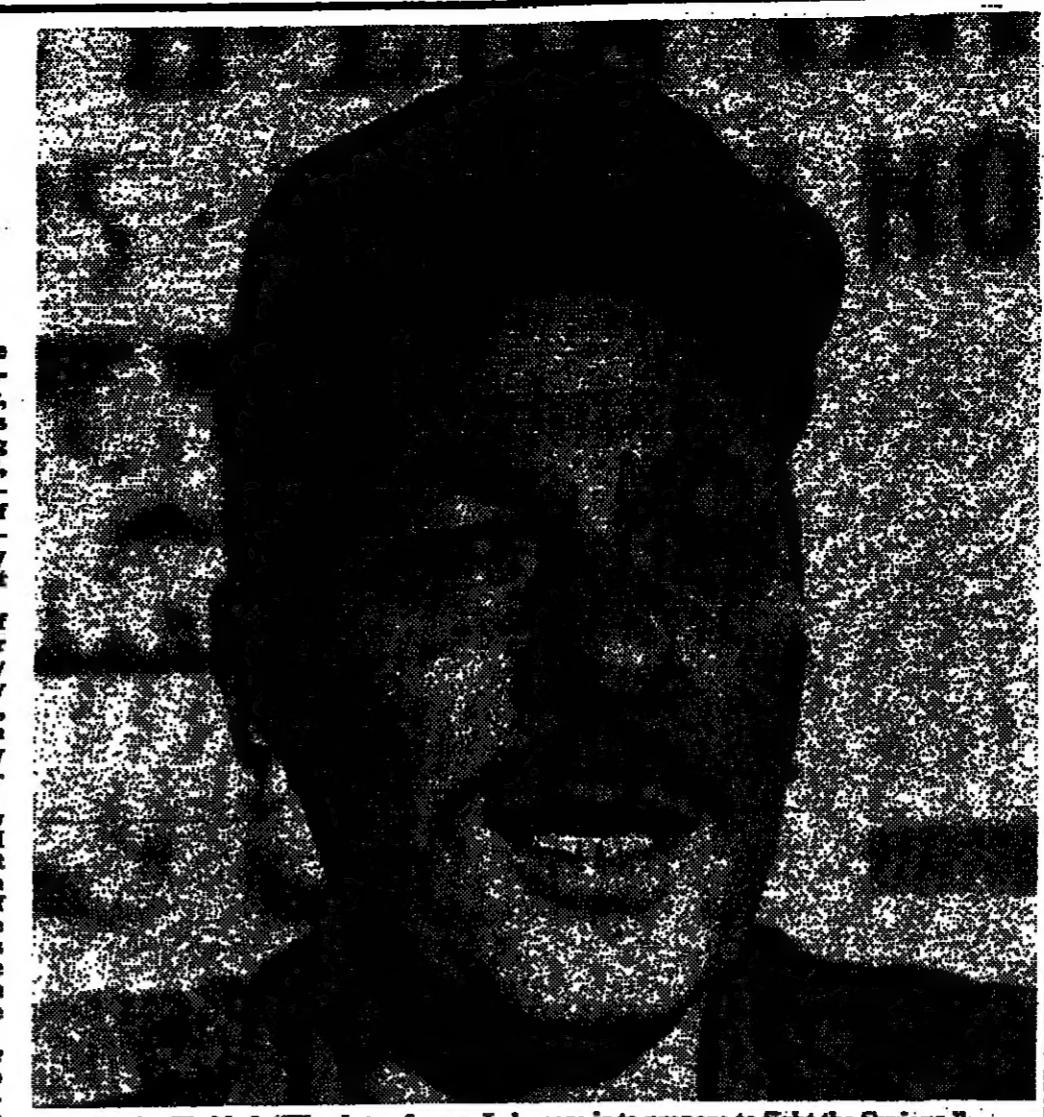
● JERUSALEM: The tripartite talks between Israel, Lebanon and the United States shifted into higher gear yesterday with Mr Philip Habib, President Reagan's special Middle East envoy, taking an active part in the discussions at the Israeli resort of Netanya, Our Correspondent writes.

The Foreign Ministry in Jordan would not comment on the reasons for the envoy's participation in the talks, the first time he has done so since these started last December.

There has been some speculation, however, that Mr Habib, who arrived in Israel on Monday, may have been instructed to give added momentum to America's flagging peace moves in the region after Jordan's decision on Sunday not to join the peace process.

Yesterday's round of talks, the twenty-ninth, ended after only two hours to enable Mr Habib to proceed to Jerusalem for meetings with Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Foreign Minister, and Mr Moshe Arens, the Defence Minister.

● LISBON: The coffin containing the body of Issam Sartawi, the Palestinian leader who was assassinated at a Socialist International conference



Major Haddad: "The duty of every Lebanese is to prepare to fight the Syrians."

Haddad argued, thumping the shiny plastic table with his fist, much to the consternation of the Israeli officer overseeing the meeting.

On Monday, the major held a two-hour conversation with Mr Ariel Sharon, the former Israeli defence minister, - "a very close friend" - who was given a strong message to convey to the Israeli Cabinet when it convenes to finalize its position over security in the zone now often referred to as "Haddadistan".

The brunt of the militia leader's criticism is reserved for the Lebanese administration of President Amoun Gemayel, which he claimed has made no effort to contact him since the Israeli invasion expanded his border enclave last summer.

"My people in the south and those up in Beirut have been fighting the same enemies, we have the same contacts and the same ally in Israel, so why are they accepted and we are not?" He complained bitterly.

In the aftermath of last June's invasion, Israeli training and other assistance to the 2,000-strong Haddad militia force have been greatly stepped up.

"I am now taking more

steps to increase my military effectiveness because we know that the Syrians are not going to withdraw peacefully," he said. "The duty of every Lebanese today is to prepare himself to fight the Syrians."

on Sunday, left Faro airport in Southern Portugal yesterday for Amman. AFP reports.

The body of Mr Sartawi, the personal side to Mr Arafat, was transported by a Moroccan aircraft. His departure had been delayed because the aircraft had landed without permission, sources said here.

● MUNICH: Mr Sartawi was wanted in West Germany in connection with a 1970 guerrilla attack in Munich in which an Israeli was killed. His office issued a warrant for Mr Sartawi's arrest for suspected murder and 18 counts of attempted murder.

Herr Heindl made clear there was no evidence that Sartawi was linked to the Olympic Games massacre in Munich.

Fears are growing for the safety of David Hempleman-Adams (above), the lone polar explorer. He has been stranded in the Arctic ice by bad weather

overrunning. Mr Hempleman-Adams, aged 26, from Bristol, had passed the halfway mark in his attempt to walk solo to the North Pole when the weather deteriorated.

Briton stranded

Heindl, the Munich prosecutor, said the men had named Mr Sartawi as the organizer of the attack after being arrested. His office issued a warrant for Mr Sartawi's arrest for suspected murder and 18 counts of attempted murder.

In the Munich attack in February 1970, two Palestinians threw a hand grenade at a bus carrying passengers to an aircraft of the Israeli airline El Al at Riem airport, Munich.

Herr Heindl, the Munich prosecutor, said the men had named Mr Sartawi as the organizer of the attack after being arrested. His office issued a warrant for Mr Sartawi's arrest for suspected murder and 18 counts of attempted murder.

Herr Heindl made clear there was no evidence that Sartawi was linked to the Olympic Games massacre in Munich.

Teheran claims 5,000 Iraqi soldiers killed

Teheran (AFP) - Fighting intensified yesterday along the southern Iran-Iraq battlefield on the third day of an Iranian thrust that Teheran Radio said had taken the lives of more than 5,000 Iraqi soldiers.

The campaign, which began on Sunday night, has enabled Iranian forces to regain control of some 60 square miles of Iranian territory, according to communiques issued here, and to "annihilate completely" an Iraqi battalion.

Iranian military authorities, in a communiqué monitored in Bahrain, gave few details of the latest fighting.

However, a spokesman announced earlier that more than 3,000 Iranians had been killed since Sunday and that the campaign by Iran had been checked in the Missan sector of the front.

Observers in Bahrain said Baghdad's silence yesterday indicated that Iran was exerting considerable pressure on Iraqi forces and could suggest that its troops now occupied several hundred square kilometres of Iraqi territory.

Yesterday's clashes took place in the Fakkeh region along the border, about 40 miles east of the Iraqi city of Amara.

● JERUSALEM: The coffin containing the body of Issam Sartawi, the Palestinian leader who was assassinated at a Socialist International conference

From Our Own Correspondent Brussels

A Corsican nationalist has been dismissed from a senior post at the European Commission after slapping the personnel director across the face.

After an appeal through the institution's disciplinary procedure, M. Jean-François Ferriandi, an official in the external relations directorate, has been told that he has lost his job from the beginning of next month.

Political observers expect him to campaign actively against the influence of former politicians when the new parties are allowed to form. In his speech he said that if Turks allowed themselves to be swayed by the former politicians they would be negating the benefits of the military takeover.

The new political parties Bill, introducing restrictions on the organizational structures, activities and finances of the new parties, is awaiting the final seal of approval - probably next week - by the ruling National Security Council.

Answering questions at

Peking airport Mr Zhao said

that he hoped to have an "in-depth exchange of views with

Mr Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister, on the question of aid to Vietnam, which China

would like other countries to

contribute to or never begin.

Referring to the "threat from

Vietnam to ASEAN (the Association of South-East Asian Nations)", he said that he believed Australia would not aid Vietnam without first consulting China, the United States and the regional grouping.

● CHINA: The Chinese

newspapers put the death toll in

last weekend's hailstorms in

Bangladesh at 41. In Dhaka, a young girl hit by a hailstone has died in hospital.

Fears for six after attack on yacht

Singapore (Reuters) - A West German-owned yacht with six people on board was set on fire after being fired on near the disputed Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, official sources in Singapore said.

The Sidhara left Singapore on Saturday with five West Germans, including its owner Herr Peter Marx and his Chinese girl friend to set up an amateur radio link on the Spratly. Radio contact with the 51ft vessel was lost after it sent a distress message saying it was ablaze after an attack. It did not identify the attackers or give its exact location.

The Spratly Islands are occupied by forces from the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam. China and Malaysia have also laid claim to the islands, which are believed to have rich offshore oil reserves.

Frenchman set free by Peking

Peking (AFP) - China has released a 49-year-old French-Chinese man who had been held in labour camps since 1955, French sources said here. Mr Raymond Raillat was freed last month and left for France on Friday.

Born in China of a French father and a Chinese mother, he was detained in Shanghai with other members of the Roman Catholic community during an anti-religious wave.

Napoleon's debt to be repaid

Zurich (Reuters) - President Mitterrand of France has promised to make a "symbolic" repayment of a debt Napoleon incurred with a Swiss mountain village nearly two centuries ago.

The village of Bourg St Pierre wrote to the French Embassy in Berns last week asking how France planned to repay the debt of 45,334 Swiss francs (about £14,000 at today's rates) which Napoleon left behind in 1800 on his way across the Alps to Italy.

Marcos gives his seal of approval

Manila (AFP) - President Marcos and his wife have given their blessing to the controversial marriage of their eldest daughter, Inee, to a divorced basketball coach, Tommy Manotoc, a spokesman for Mrs Marcos said here.

Inee, who is 27, gave birth to a boy in Honolulu last Saturday and President Marcos, asked if he was resigned to being called a grandfather, was said to have replied: "More so than the first lady."

Briton stranded

Heindl, the Munich prosecutor, said the men had named Mr Sartawi as the organizer of the attack after being arrested. His office issued a warrant for Mr Sartawi's arrest for suspected murder and 18 counts of attempted murder.

THE ARTS

Theatre

Implacable sense of doom

Blood Brothers

Lyric

So this is the great new hyped-up musical? Reports when it started at Liverpool suggested that it was, first and foremost, an accomplished and thrilling theatrical experience, but arriving in Shaftesbury Avenue it now gives a different impression: a show whose justification lies rather in the urgency of its message than in the clumsy dramatic vehicle constructed to carry it. As a musical, its derivative and often soupy score hardly contains a single song you would want to hear twice; as a cry of anger, it goes on running round your head more implacably than any music.

In Willy Russell's hands, the theatrical archetype of twin brothers separated from birth, unaware of their relationship until one kills the other, becomes a simple social parable: when following the fortunes of working-class twins, one of whom is adopted by a couple in the manager class. Carrying as it does the unspoken implication that their natural abilities were equal, it allows Mr Russell a bold contrast between class advantages.

Kept by his actual mother, Mickey marries at 18, loses his job, gets dragged into crime and emerges after seven years' jail a prematurely aged mental wreck. Edward proceeds through public school and university, growing up to be a councillor with easy, charming manners. And, as their kinship of blood and emotion is so ceaselessly stressed, the show clearly presents those class differences as dividing, and breeding

Anthony Masters

Visible prejudice

Mitzi Wildebeest

The Gate, Latchmere

untrue". Read it quickly and that is all you need to remember about South Africa, she says. She gives a slide show of South African scenes: the Wildebeest Dutch colonial houses and backyard with swimming pool – then she expounds the divine righteousness of the Afrikaner hardliners: "If God had been a liberal he wouldn't have given us ten commandments, he would have made ten suggestions."

It is not entirely a one-woman show because the audience get pulled into it, sometimes literally on to the stage. At other times we wave the South African flag or join in the chorus of a Voortrekker song. Peter Hodgkinson accompanies on the piano, and the show has been developed from its early days at the 1981 Edinburgh Festival by Brian Carter. Elaine Loudon, who played the schoolteacher, wear the black gowns and bonnets of the pioneers and consider their prime minister a liberal softie. Ms Loudon takes her cue by dressing in black and treating the audience like a class of schoolchildren.

She begins by writing on the blackboard: "The Scissor, freak

Clare Colvin

ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA, BALLET

SADDLER'S WELLS THEATRE

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE, COVENT GARDEN

ROYAL NATIONAL OPERA

THE ROYAL OPERA

THEATRE

THEATRES

CONCERTS

DRAWING IN THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE WORKSHOP

EDWARD DE GREGORIO'S ASPERN

ELIZABETH RUSSELL'S THE TAMING OF THE SHREW

FESTIVAL OF THE STARS

FRANCISCO ARAIZA

GRIFF REYS JONES

HILARY FINCH

JONATHAN SUMMERS

JOYCE TAYLOR

LAWRENCE DANCE

LYRIC THEATRE

MARIANNE ROSS

MAYFAIR

Depo-Provera: a drug on trial

Jenny Bryan reports on the facts and fears surrounding the controversial contraceptive

The controversial injectable contraceptive Depo-Provera goes "on trial" before a panel of distinguished medical and legal experts in London next week. They will decide whether the drug should be licensed for long-term use in Britain in the face of massive adverse publicity in America, where it has been claimed the drug is dangerous, might be misused and might be given only to poorly educated socially deprived women without their understanding its implications.

The American manufacturers, Upjohn, have fought for a British licence for Depo-Provera, which is at least as effective as the Pill and more reliable than the IUD, cap or sheath, for seven years.

Next week's British hearing has arisen because Kenneth Clarke, the Health Minister, chose as one of his first ministerial actions to overrule the committee on Safety of Medicines which advised him to grant Depo-Provera a full licence for women for whom other methods of contraception were inappropriate. Mr Clarke is believed to have taken his decision because of the risk of women of low social class being given the drug without their informed consent.

One of the hearing's key witnesses will be Dame Josephine Barnes, a former president of the British Medical Association, who will argue that the problems of giving Depo-Provera to women who cannot understand its risks and benefits are no different from those of any drug.

Already, the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the Family Planning Association have come down in favour of Depo-Provera becoming just another alternative in the choice of contraceptives.

No one is quite sure what will come out of the hearing. No drug wrangle has ever reached this stage of the agreed procedures. Kenneth Clarke has already overruled his medical advisors once - he could, in theory, overrule the independent panel's recommendations too.

Upjohn does not stand to make a lot of money out of Depo-Provera in Britain. Around two million women get the Pill from their GP - at a cost of about £13.5m. According to Dame Josephine, several thousand women who would probably get Depo-Provera if it were fully licensed. But a positive decision from the British authorities would help Upjohn to sell the drug in other areas - such as developing countries - where the market is much larger.

In its 400-page written evidence to the panel, the Coordinating Group on Depo-Provera, composed of women actively involved in women's health issues, has drawn on information it has received about more than 100 women who felt they were not fully informed of the possible side effects of Depo-Provera.

Many were women with a poor understanding of English for whom no provision had been made for information to be given in their own language.

Six out of seven women who answered an appeal for women who felt they had been mistreated in one London health district were black and several were young unmarried mothers.

Three years ago one professional singer got an out of court settlement of £3,750 from King's College Hospital, London, because her career was disrupted as a result of side effects from Depo-Provera which had not been fully explained to her.

The drug has been used most widely in developing countries where there have been many reports especially from Africa and Asia of women given the drug without their fully informed consent and of doctors exceeding their own contraceptive recommendations of its use.

There was even a report of women in a Cambodian refugee camp being given the drug with the promise of extra food. Even so, the drug is used as part of WHO and International Planned Parenthood Federation contraception programmes.

At present several health authorities including America and Canada are considering whether to license Depo-Provera, after lengthy debate on the medical and social implications. In the past, the US has refused to license the drug for even short term use.

The Coordinating Group on Depo-Provera is the main pressure group against the drug - will not be allowed to give verbal evidence at the hearing. But its comprehensive written evidence would do justice to an organization with much greater resources at its disposal.

Much of the evidence rests on the known side effects of the drug but also raised doubts about the largely unknown long term effects of continued use of Depo-Provera. The group argues that if Depo-Provera is to come on the market at all its use should be limited and controlled so that the terms of the drug's licence are not exceeded.

Upjohn's expert witnesses - a list of whom reads like a Who's Who of obstetrics and pharmacology - will give verbal evidence.

The hearing will be held in the conference suite, Riverwalk House, Millbank, London, SW1, starting on Monday, April 25, 1983 at 10am.

On the panel will be Professor Rosalind Hurley, chairwoman of the Medicines Commission at the DHSS, Professor A. Ascher, also a member of the Medicines Commission, Ian Kennedy, director of the Centre of Law, Medicine and Ethics at King's College, London, Professor H. Jacobs, consultant gynaecologist and Professor F. A. Langley.



Third World population control: Depo-Provera is given to a young woman in Thailand

The benefits and side-effects

Depo-Provera is a synthetic form of one of the body's natural hormones, progesterone. Each injection prevents pregnancy for at least three months by stopping a woman's eggs developing and by masking her womb hostile to any fertilized egg which might creep through.

Since 1978 Depo-Provera has been used in Britain for short-term contraception, which means one, or at most two, injections. Doctors can, and often do, exert their "clinical judgment" and give Depo-Provera for longer periods - for years, rather than months.

There is evidence that Depo-Provera has been misused - given to socially disadvantaged women without full counselling about the drug and its side effects. Its very nature makes it an ideal drug for women who find it impossible to remember to take the pill or use other forms of contraception. A few doctors are thought to have taken it upon themselves to inject such women - often after an abortion or an unwanted child - without explaining the full implications of the drug.

Depo-Provera often prevents a woman from having her normal period. This in itself worries women given insufficient counselling since they think they may be pregnant when their periods stop. In the first months or even up to a year after taking the drug she will have some unpredictable bleeding. Before the injection is given there is no way of knowing whether this will be mild or severe.

Once the injection is given there is no turning back - for the first months the woman must simply "grin and bear it" if she is one of the unfortunate minority who bleeds severely.

Depo-Provera does not cause permanent infertility but women may be slow to conceive after they stop the drug, so it is better kept for women not planning further children. It is often these older women who have a narrow choice of contraceptive methods because their weight, blood pressure or smoking puts them at risk of heart problems if they take the pill.

An enthusiastic supporter of Depo-Provera is Dr John Tykeskar, of the department of obstetrics and gynaecology at the general hospital in Motala, southern Sweden, and also runs his own practice. He believes Depo-Provera is the best contraceptive for women over 35 who do not want more children, and half of his patients in that category use the drug.

Motala is a provincial town with a population of about 30,000 and is far removed from the poor inner cities of Britain where Depo-Provera achieved its controversial status. More than 400 Motala women use the drug, a proportion at least 20 times greater than in the rest of Sweden.

Dr Tykeskar recently surveyed 182 women who first had Depo-Provera in the early 1970s. Some had had a single injection, others had stayed on the drug for 12 years. Four out of five liked the drug, but 22 per cent had stopped it because of side effects. The most common of

these were irregular bleeding, weight gain, decreased sex drive and depression.

Since most women who stopped treatment did so within a year of starting Depo-Provera, the survey supported the view that, provided women can cope with the bleeding irregularities in the first months, they generally use the contraceptive for several years.

And what of the benefits? Forty-five per cent of the women in the survey said that not having periods was an advantage, as was the simplicity and reliability of the method.

One woman I spoke to at Dr Tykeskar's clinic, started having Depo-Provera nine years ago after suffering a thrombosis that made it impossible to continue with the Pill. She experienced some bleeding in the early months, but it was not bad enough to make her stop the treatment. A bonus was the disappearance of eczema and migraine from which she had previously suffered.

Two other women had started Depo-Provera because of the risk of circulatory problems with the Pill. One had high blood pressure, the other a family history of heart problems.

The eldest patient Dr Tykeskar had had on the drug was 54. Since there is a tentative theory that Depo-Provera may have a role in protecting women from breast cancer, the doctor believes women should continue to use it even after the menopause.

International Planned Parenthood Federation

PENNY PERRICK'S DIARY

Transport of delight across the Irish Sea

Connemara

Ireland begins at Liverpool, or at least on the B & I (British and Irish) car ferry which nightly crosses the Irish Sea. For years, I used to spend the night on board in a bunk which throbbed with vibrations from the adjoining engine room, or, worse, swinging on a recliner seat in a lounge awash in stale Guinness. Then I married a man who'd endured a spartan upbringing in a Methodist parsonage in Cornwall. To shake off the effects of this glut start in life, he became an incomparable sailor. Within minutes of boarding the boat, he discovered a row of boarddeck cabins reserved for the gentry. Now we travel in style in what looks like a miniature Ideal Home exhibition stand, all bright prints and fitted carpets. It's a ladylike way to cross the sea, but I miss the night life below deck, full of nuns clutching armfuls of dirty-free Baileys' Irish Cream and men who look as if they could tell you what really happened to Shergar, had they a mind to.



Today, I drove down many stately corridors and then through an impressive wooden door marked "Ladies Underwear". Inside is a lark sight: a suntanned model in a pale blue bra from the autumn collection weaves her way around the desks at which sit pin-striped men and frilly-bloused women. None is disturbed. Nor do they look up when I seize one of M & S's brand new lines, introduced by popular demand - a double D sized bra. Good grief, each cup would hold a week's groceries. My own physical problems seem puny indeed.

I am led down many stately corridors and then through an impressive wooden door marked "Ladies Underwear". Inside is a lark sight: a suntanned model in a pale blue bra from the autumn collection weaves her way around the desks at which sit pin-striped men and frilly-bloused women. None is disturbed. Nor do they look up when I seize one of M & S's brand new lines, introduced by popular demand - a double D sized bra. Good grief, each cup would hold a week's groceries. My own physical problems seem puny indeed.

Funier still when M & S decide that the ill-fit of their tights is not because of any abnormality on the part of my legs. Graciously, they promise to let me test-run future samples hot off the production line and, gratefully, I scampers from St Michael House, before they decide to drag me off to their laboratories to check me for spillage, shrinkage and loss of colour.

Tomorrow

Modern Times meets the night people - those who work while others sleep.

TALKBACK

Delius unsullied

From J. R. Heron, Consultant Neurologist, North Staffordshire Hospital Centre, Hartshill, Stoke-on-Trent.

Dr Thomas Sutinford (Medical Briefing, March 18) quotes from Professor Sutinford who was shown Sir John Coneybear's case notes, indicating that the negative blood WR test for syphilis - the absence of involvement of the dorsal columns of the spinal cord, the absence of dementia and Sir John's own expert opinion - are all strong evidence that Delius's final illness was not due to syphilis.

A further indication that this illness was not due to acquired syphilis is that his father was known to have suffered from a similar disease years previously.

In the nineteenth century and early twentieth century relatively obscure hereditary or sporadic spinocerebellar degenerations and demyelinating diseases of the central nervous system, of unknown aetiology, were not uncommon and understandably, wrongly diagnosed as being due to syphilis.

A careful reappraisal of Sir John Coneybear's case notes on Delius would certainly offer the best and only satisfactory evidence on which to base a final and informed conclusion.

DIY cures

From Daniel Ryman, Director, Margate Park Lane Hotel, Piccadilly, W1.

Like Dr Linda A. Anderson and Dr J. D. Phillips (Letters, March 26), I read the Modern Times column "Turning to the quacks" (March 24) with concern. What I particularly find alarming is the implication of self-prescription. I have come across several cases where the essential oils from sage and rosemary can, through the wrong dosage, cause epileptic fits. Another example is the essential oil of camphor, in particular, the cheap variety from Japan which can be toxic. This is recommended for colds and coughs.

What I would therefore suggest is that these natural remedies be administered by experienced practitioners. A list of these can be obtained from the Institute of Complementary Medicine, 21 Portland Place, London W1.

The solution to the great blue trout mystery

THE TIMES COOK



30g (1 oz) butter
4 tablespoons seasoned flour
1 clove garlic, finely chopped
2 tablespoons white wine vinegar
2 tablespoons chopped chives or parsley to garnish

Blue trout
Serves two
2 very fresh trout
450ml (1/2 pint) fish stock or water
150ml (1/2 pint) dry white wine, or 4 tablespoons white wine vinegar or fresh lemon juice
1 shallot or small onion, finely chopped
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Gut the fish, cut off the fins and wash and dry them.

Cut the bacon in dice or narrow strips and put them in a cold frying pan. Heat slowly and steadily until the fat runs and the bacon is cooked and beginning to crisp. Then add the butter.

Coat the fish with the seasoned flour and add them to the pan. Cook them for about five minutes on each side, turning carefully only once. Lift the fish from the pan and arrange them on a warm serving dish. Drain the bacon and sprinkle it over the fish. Keep warm.

Fry the garlic briefly in the fat remaining in the pan. Remove the pan from the heat and stir in the vinegar. Pour the sauce immediately over the fish and serve with a sprinkling of chopped chives or parsley and melted butter.

Nuts and trout are another well tried combination. Usually sliced almonds or hazelnuts are fried golden brown in butter after the fish has been sautéed, and the nuts then sprinkled over the fish. But the nuts can also be used to coat the fish before baking them.

Baked trout with almonds
Serves four
4 plump trout
55g (2 oz) butter, melted

110g (4 oz) almonds, very finely chopped or coarsely ground
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

1 lemon

Gut the fish, cut off the fins and wash and dry them. Paint the fish with melted butter and coat them in the chopped or ground almonds. Season them lightly and lay them in one layer in a well buttered baking dish. Spoon any remaining melted butter over them.

Cook the trout in a preheated moderate oven (180°C/350°F gas mark 4) for about 20 minutes. Serve immediately from the baking dish with a freshly cut wedge of lemon to squeeze over them.

TROUT WITH BACON
Serves four
4 plump trout
225g (8 oz) smoked bacon, lean and fat

The best fish call for the simplest of cooking methods - frying in butter or grilling over wood. Farmed trout or any that have been frozen repay a little extra care.

IN 1928 THEY SAID A DEPRESSION COULD NOT HAPPEN. CAN YOU BELIEVE THOSE SAME VOICES IN 1983 ...

THE DOWNWAVE
ROBERT BECKMAN

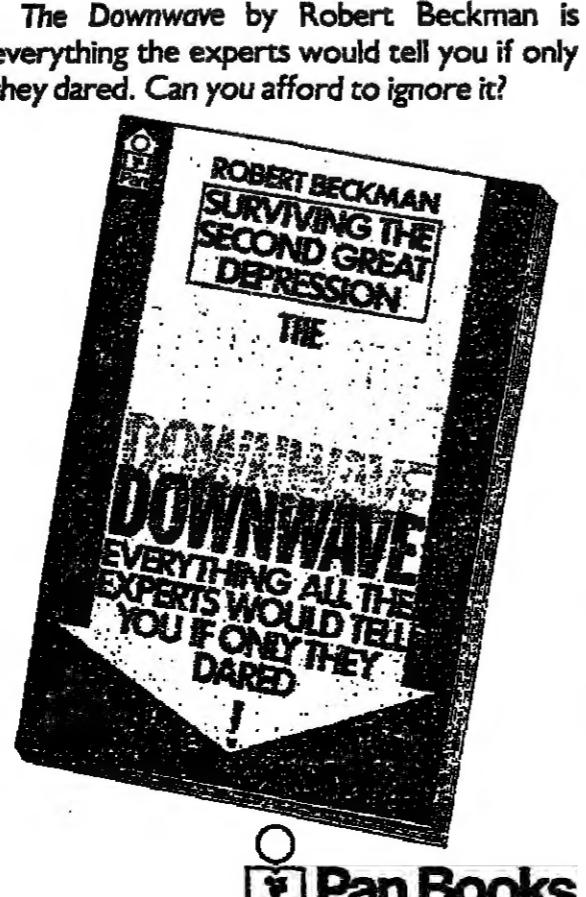
Over the last few years we've been told, again and again, that the road to economic recovery is just round the corner. Is it? Dare you continue to believe the so-called experts whose predictions have been so consistently proved wrong?

Robert Beckman believes you should not. Since 1979 his has been the lone voice warning that there is no meaningful proof whatsoever to support forecasts of economic recovery.

Now, in *The Downwave*, he spells it out with devastating frankness in a no-holds-barred guide to the upheaval that lies ahead. And he backs it all up with incontrovertible evidence, not all of it economic.

His message is simple but positive. You can survive the recession by using it. There are steps the man in the street can take to secure the future. There are opportunities that will never again occur in our lifetime. Beckman shows you the way.

His advice is backed by a successful track record of financial forecasting. Over the



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15/4/83

SPECTRUM

The British festival opening in
New York today is reviving
the enthusiasm of the Beatle era

British arts bite into the Apple

By Christopher Thomas

Even New York is dazzled by it all. The greatest outpouring of British culture ever to go abroad is spending the hot, steaming summer in America's greatest city in a fabulous display of art, dance, theatre, music and sport. There are Constable, Moore, Holbein, the Royal Shakespeare Company, the London Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Ballet. There are Highland games in Central Park and an old boy's Oxford and Cambridge boat race down the East River. Double-decker London buses are plying the crumpling streets of Manhattan, the Chelsea Flower Show has been magically recreated, and 1,000 rich Welsh voices will echo around Madison Square Garden. Somehow the festival title, "Britain Salutes New York", seems like an understatement.

The whole huge extravaganza was conceived in an airliner 25,000 feet above the Atlantic, where David Lloyd-Jacob was thinking about the little hiccup in Anglo-American relations that occurred 200 years ago. Like so many successful New York businessmen and corporate bosses, he is British; it seemed to him, in his musings, that America should be reassured that there were no hard feelings about the revolutionary war.

And so it all began. The corporate giants began falling over themselves to get involved, to sponsor something to act as a host, to lend their names. If one is anybody in New York this summer, one simply must get invited to a British bash. Britain is not so much saluting New York as taking it over for the summer and on into the autumn.

It starts officially today with a black-tie reception at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, an appropriate setting for the greatest foreign cultural and arts festival ever staged in the United States. The schedule of events for the next few days gives an idea of the scale of things: by the end of the weekend more than 20 exhibitions of aspects of Britain past and present – just a selection of those that will eventually get under way – will have opened and the social calendar for every day this week is, to say the least, exotic.

TOKYO
Japanese schools have traditionally been halls of order and decorum, and the students – boys garbed in black military-style jackets and girls in sailor suit uniforms – models of dedication and obedience. But a series of violent incidents involving teenagers has prompted the Education Ministry to establish a task force to study the problem and to recommend corrective measures.

In addition, Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone has promised that finding ways to deal with violence in schools will be one of the priorities of his Cabinet. But neither the Prime Minister nor the Education Ministry has indicated what actions might be taken.

Since late January there have been more than a dozen cases of violence by students, both

A random selection of exhibits gives the flavour: the Guggenheim Museum will stage an exhibition focusing on British art from 1930 to the present, featuring works from Francis Bacon, Ben Nicholson, Henry Moore, Richard Hamilton and others. More than 3,000 London Transport posters dating from 1908 will be on display, as will some exceptional English silver drawn from the Victoria and Albert Museum, the National Trust and private collections. British artists living in New York – Richard Ballard, Sue Coe, Garth Evans, Richard Kidd, Graham Nickson and Hugh O'Donnell – will be exhibiting.



Perhaps the most spectacular event to open in the next couple of days, however, is one entitled "Constable's England", the first major exhibition of John Constable's work in America in more than 30 years. It consists of 64 paintings and sketches from lenders in the US and Britain, reflecting the full spectrum of his output.

"Holbein and the Court of St James's", which opens next week, is an exhibition of 70 drawings and one painted miniature by Hans Holbein the Younger, on loan from the Queen's collection in Windsor Castle and undoubtedly the greatest collection of Holbein drawings in the world.

Another exhibition features "The Best in British Graphic Art and Photography", while the festival's eclectic nature will be indicated by a display at the American Museum of Natural History, of the types of plants that Captain Cook took home from his voyage of botanical exploration between 1768 and 1771.

But there are more than just main attractions. Winston Churchill will be honoured with the first one-man show of his paintings in America, there will be a display of contemporary jewelry by leading designers, and a



Participants in the British salute to New York during the coming months include Claudio Abbado (above left), conducting the London Symphony Orchestra; Harriet Walter and John Franklyn-Robbins (above centre) as Helens and the King of France in the Royal Shakespeare Company's *All's Well that Ends Well*; Sir Hugh Casson (above left), the festival's artistic director; the jazz composer Mike Westbrook (below left), whose Brass Band will re-export the music to the country of its birth; and the members of the Royal Ballet, whose repertoire on tour will include *Dances of Albion*

collection of brass rubbings will be on display.

Mike Westbrook, possibly the most prominent British jazz composer, will be in town with his six-piece brass band, playing his settings of William Blake, and in the theatre the range is enormous, including performances in halls and hotels by the Black Theatre Cooperative, the Brighton Theatre Company, The Eye and Ear Theatre, the Moving Picture Mine Show and many others.

So it goes on, something like 200 events in the entertainment halls and museums of America's cultural capital. So great is the quantity on offer, and so rich its quality, that the undertaking seems almost arrogant: one really should not be so bold in somebody else's house, even though the hosts seem not to mind a bit.

Further into this dazzling catalogue of culture, there will be a major retrospective of Henry Moore, consisting of some giant bronze sculptures as well as smaller works. Transporting that lot has cost Gould Inc, an electronics business, the best part of \$800,000, the biggest single contribution of the festival.

As a whole, the jamboree is costing something between \$3m and \$4m, not a penny of which has come from the taxpayers of America or Britain. Capitalism, the guiding spirit of New York, is footing the entire bill.

David Lloyd-Jacob is the retired chairman of the Amcon Group Inc, a British mining equipment company that has had its headquarters in New York since 1907. He spent a long time thinking about the prospects for an arts festival during his many trips across

the Atlantic. "Our two countries have a co-conspirator relationship in so many fields, especially culture," he said. "Our common heritage and language and our strong business ties are nowhere stronger than in New York City."

The torrent of American publicity has been sudden and heady. There have been huge spreads in the newspapers and magazines, not since the Beatles arrived in 1964, perhaps, has it seemed so interesting and appropriate to be British in New York. It is one of the peculiarities of the British here that they do not have a community like other ethnic groups; lately, though, they have been inspected, assessed and labelled, photographed and quoted at extraordinary length.

Some of this coverage has been amusing and highly memorable. John Richardson, sprawling in his chintz sofa and smiling out of the glossy pages of *New York* magazine, took time off writing his book about Picasso to venture his opinion about New York: "Old money meets new money here. Jews meet Gentiles, hicks meet sophisticates. The English always tend to end up the extra man."

There was also the Earl Jermyn, who spends as much time in New York as is permitted to a registered resident of Nassau and Monte Carlo and who was described as "dandified – a coronet stickpin adorns his tie." He had much to say about a subject with which he should be highly familiar: "The nobility of the English aristocracy is incredible. They take advice from the old family lawyers who is interested in keeping things as they always were. They have

no spending power, they're land heavy, and in the end they go broke."

Edwina Sandys, appearing under the headline "We Happy Few", a profile of 11 New York Brits, ventured: "English people who come here all want to achieve things. It's like Dick Whittington – streets paved with gold." She is heavily involved in organizing the festival: two telephones ring remorselessly in her Manhattan apartment, where her own spectacular works look down from a high wall on to a chaotic but friendly scene. One of the first official functions of the festival was that night – a reception at the Algonquin, the most British hotel in New York as well as the one enjoying the closest links with the worlds of literature and the arts. Entertainment was supplied by Millie Martin. There will be a lot more of that sort of thing in the coming months.



Aside from all the culture, there is a sporting side to the festival, notably the Highland games in Central Park on May 14-15 and the Oxford-Cambridge boat race on May 8. All participants in the latter event are Blues, all but one are based in New York, and a good many of them are getting on a bit. Donald Mackay, who did his bit for Oxford in 1947, is the oldest among them; the youngest is Richard Cashin, who was in the Cambridge eight in 1976. Watney's, the sponsors, are con-

sidering whether to make it an annual event now they have discovered that there are so many Blues in New York who seem to enjoy reliving the experience of slogging up a highly tidal river.

Organising the event has, at times, evidently been an agonizing process. One early complication occurred when the Central Park authorities got cold feet over plans for a pop concert. Then the featured group, Queen, received a lucrative offer from elsewhere and took off to the bank. There will, however, be a rock concert at Madison Square Garden on April 25, although the star attraction has yet to be nominated.

The names connected with the event are weighty indeed, starting at the top: the festival's patrons are Prince Charles and Nancy Reagan. Inevitably, there is excited speculation around town about a visit from the Prince and Princess of Wales.

Fuelling the gossip, the Prince has put his signature to a full-page message in a glossy magazine supplement in the *New York Times*, wherein he gives no hints of any plans to come to the ballet but does make mention of a distant relative: "It is more than 300 years since the 30-year-old brother of King Charles II took possession of the city, which he promptly renamed, with no great modesty, after himself."

Modesty has no part in this festival. Britain is showing off, bragging with all its might in a great display of resources from the past and of the present. It is amusing that we continue to insist that it is we who are saluting them. It begins to look rather like the other way

around. The ever-popular *Radio Times* letters unit will put on a demonstration in Hyde Park (not Wales, Scotland or the regions) of dismantling a programme and putting it together again in one and a half minutes as the viewers would like it. Members of the public will also be able to put their complaints to the Deputy Head of Heavy Entertainment in person; he unfortunately will not be able to be there, as he has been sent on attachment to Aberdeen, but there will be a personal tape recording of his answer: "While we accept your criticisms in full, we feel that you know much better than you and that the programme was perfect in every way. Next, please."

For those who like to see behind the scenes, the BBC-TV Railway Film Unit are demonstrating some of the techniques used in their next epic series, *Great Railway Sidings of The World*, while *Top of the Pops* will be showing just what happens during the four days necessary to train an average *TOP* audience (the groups themselves, of course, just turn up and mime). David Attenborough will this week be looking for rare insects in Brunel, Iceland, Hawaii and Mauritius, so if you happen to be in the area, he says why not drop in and help him have a look or bring your own insects if you've got any? Jolly good.

Finally, if the absence of the *Radio Times* forced you to miss the historic programme in which Richard Attenborough accepted the nomination for the Eurovision Song Contest of his new number, "My Passive Resistance is Low", rest assured that it will soon be repeated.

As the new *Radio Times* does not start till Saturday, here is a brief resume of programmes till then. Radio 1, as *Radio 2*, Radio 2, as *Radio 1*, Radio 3, music, Radio 4, talk, BBC-1, final episode of *I Love Paris in the Springtime*, BBC-2, the Dimbleby Snooker Finals, John Pilger v "Hurricane" Thatcher.

MOREOVER... Miles Kington

Steve Lohr reports on the rising level of violence within a high-pressure education system

Japan's blackboard jungle

Inside and outside the classroom, that were widely reported in the Japanese press, which carried references to the blackboard jungle.

Though the number of cases was small, the cruelty of some of the young people involved made them the subject of national attention and concern.

For example, in early February a gang of teenage boys beat up a number of vagrants in Yokohama, in an incident described as a sadistic orgy by the English-language *Japan Times*. Three of the victims died from their injuries.

In another case, a 14-year-old

girl in a school in Kisanaz, a city near Tokyo, was beaten with a bamboo sword for three hours by a dozen of her classmates. The assailants came from affluent families and had no previous records of delinquency.

At a Tokyo junior high school, four boys ganged up on one of their 14-year-old classmates and physically abused him. In another case, a physically handicapped teacher in Tokyo stabbed a student with a fruit knife, after being harassed and attacked for weeks by a group of boys.

In Japan, a culturally and ethnically homogeneous nation with the most equitable distribution of income among the major industrialized countries, juvenile delinquency is still much less prevalent than, say, in Britain or the United States.

Yet school violence has increased sharply in recent years. Teachers say the problem first emerged about 10 years ago and has worsened steadily.

According to the National Police Agency, violent incidents involving junior and senior high school students on school premises totalled 1,961 last year, or 60 per cent more than the number three years earlier. There were 8,904 victims and 4,267 assailants, mostly students aged 14 and 15.

The police agency also reported that the number of cases of violence by junior and senior high school students against teachers reached 843 last year, four and a half times the number in 1978, when the police began counting such cases.

The numbers are tiny considering there are 10 million students in 16,000 junior and senior high schools throughout Japan. However, the reported cases are said to be only an indication of the overall problem, since most lesser incidents go unreported, rather than ruining a young person's record.

The recent wave of violence came during the entrance

individualistic values of the west, are thus more likely to rebel against a system of uniform education that stresses learning by rote, education officials say.

In the Japanese system, the personal costs for the students in terms of pressure, anxiety and childhoods with limited play seem high. The entrance examinations for high school and then college are all important. The competition to prepare for the tests has become increasingly intense in recent years. With fewer children and higher incomes, more families can afford to send their offspring to the night schools that students attend after their regular classes to cram for exams.

The high-pressure, cramming education is one of the biggest reasons for school violence, said Michio Nagai, a former Education Minister and a professor of educational sociology at Sophia University. "There's no question about it."

Of the recent incidents, Takumi Kimura, a 16-year-old high school student in Tokyo, said: "I was not surprised. I and many others share a sense of frustration with the system and for teachers. But the majority of us would never do violent things because it would ruin one's future."

Even on good students like

Kimura, the pressure takes its toll.

"About three months

before my entrance examination for high school," he recalled, "I started to get a stomach ache whenever I came across a question I could not solve."

The trouble has prompted

public criticism of the weak

points of the Japanese education

system, a system often

praised for its strengths.

These strengths are consider-

able. The centralized, lock-step

approach has high standards in

such basic skills as mathemati-

ics, language and engineering.

The resulting high literacy rate

and technical competence of its

population receives much of the

credit for Japan's ability to have

achieved high economic growth

since the Second World War.

Nor is the education system

alone blamed for the recent

school violence. Teachers note

that Japan's rising postwar

affluence and urbanization have

brought with them a steady, if

slow by western standards,

breakdown of traditional family

values and the discipline of

children. Today's children,

increasingly influenced by the

media, are less inclined to

obey authority.

But the accent will be on fun

as well, and the team who

produce the puzzles and riddles

that now occupy so much of the

Radio Times will be on show in

the bustling area in Covent

Garden, where they will give a

display of sensational anagrams

and brain-teasers, culminating

in a march past by the BBC's

own house-trained palindromes

and a parachute descent by

Roger Woddis, who will com-

pose a new verse for the

occasion as he falls.

The ever-popular *Radio*

Times letters unit will put on a



THE TIMES DIARY

Leg spinner

One of the ironies of the Australian prime minister's campaign against sporting links with South Africa is that Bob Hawke's life was once saved by a Springbok cricketer, touring Australia 31 years ago. It happened at Perth University where Hawke, as a student, did spartine gardening for cash. One of his legs was caught in the wheel of a horse-drawn cart, and his thigh was badly torn when the horse bolted. Roy McLean, a South African batsman, and the late Ken Viljoen, Springbok tour manager, who were in Perth for the first match of the 1952-53 tour, rushed to Hawke's aid. Viljoen used McLean's shirt as a tourniquet while the batsman called an ambulance. Hawke later wrote to McLean to thank him for "saving my life".

Incidentally, I notice that Hawke is now seeing a butler for his official residence in Canberra. The pay is £310 a week, but "only suitably experienced and qualified" candidates need apply. I wonder what that means.

Hairy

One incident from the royal progress through Australia has not yet broken surface in this country, though it is a favourite among antipodean reporters assigned to the tour. During a walkabout in South Australia, the Princess of Wales made, as usual, for the kiddies and parted one tousle-headed mite on the head. "And why aren't you in school today?" she inquired. "I was sent home, miss," the urchin replied, "because I've got head lice."

Book of the film

Like the Yanks, the bookies took a pasting on the Oscars. Esal Bookmakers, who offered the first British book on the academy awards, lost a total of £80,000 on *Gandhi's* triumph. They dropped £52,000 on its selection as best film, and £20,000 on Ben Kingsley's success as best actor. Oddly, no one backed Sir Richard Attenborough to lift the best director award. Undaunted, the bookies are looking to recoup their losses. Already the odds against a British film completing the hat-trick next year are only a stony 2-1.

• Here is a sentence from a London Marathon press release which I guarantee will make cyclists and motorist fume: "To ensure smooth running for Marathon entrants, engineers are now filling the holes in the roads along the route".

Proms to pit

It came as a surprise even to the management at Sadler's Wells this week to discover that the pianist in the orchestra pit to accompany the dancing of the Joyce Trisler Dans Company is Vicki Seow, better known as a successful concert player. In 1974 he won the BBC piano competition as youngest ever competitor, and he has played several televised Promenade concerts since. Not only is this the first time Seow has played for dancers, it is also the first time the dancers have worked to live accompaniment. Seow, who took the job partly for the challenge of tackling Hindemith's *Four Temperaments*, is beneficiary of the Musicians' Union's stern attitude to the use of tape recordings at live performances.

Waste not

I have struck a rich vein in the matter of toilet time reading. After Dr Johnson on the subject, here is Lord Chesterfield's advice to his son, quoted by Roy Porter in *English Society in the 18th Century* and forwarded to me by the vicar of Wadsley, Sheffield: "I knew a gentleman who was so good a manager of his time, that he would not even lose that small portion of it which calls of nature obliged him to pass in the necessary house, but gradually went through all the Latin poets in those moments. He bought, for example, a common edition of Horace, of which he tore off gradually a couple of pages, carried them with him to that necessary place, read them first and sent them down as a sacrifice to Cloeina; that was so much time fairly gained, and I recommend you to follow his example... it will make any book which you shall read in that manner, very present in your mind." Especially, of course, if it blocks the drains.

• A correction circulated by the Birmingham Association of University Teachers says: "An unfortunate, if not entirely inappropriate, misprint has crept in... Nominations for the new National Women's Advisory Committee should, of course, be accompanied by brief biographical notes, and not by brief biological notes."

A Conservative councillor in Lambeth is calling for the borough's teeming pigeon population to be fed chemo-sterilants, which is the more surprising since the councillor's name is Dickie Bird. Objectors to his scheme are not much on the side of the pigeons, but favour shooting and trapping instead. Marksmen visit Waterloo station twice a year, early on Sunday mornings, to pop off some of the pestilential pointers. The trouble with feeding sterilizing agents to the pigeons, it is said, is that their breeding season is so long there is nothing strong enough to stop them producing a clutch of squabbling squabs in the end.

PHS

Bernard Levin: the way we live now

A woman's place is in the House, or is it?

I learn (from an article by the Prime Minister's daughter, no less) of an organisation called "The 300 Group", that being the number of women MPs the outfit is determined to see elected, on the grounds that since women constitute half the population it is only just and fitting that they should be represented in Parliament by their own sex in the same proportion.

My first instinct, when I read this news, was go back to bed and pull the bedclothes up over my head, so that the neighbours should not be disturbed by my moans. My second instinct was to feel that the question is not quite so simple as that. What my third and deciding instinct will be I have not yet discovered, and I hope to do so in the course of this column.

Let us take first the thought that the ladies of The 300 Group are barking up a *non sequitur* of massive dimensions, a view which has much to command it. Parliament exists to represent the political will of the country; it is organized into parties because it is only through party that will can be channelled into a choice for the electorate. Both halves of this proposition are crude and imperfect, but they are the best we can do, and I know of no free country that denies either.

It follows that the selection of an MP is a political process. Of course, that is not entirely so, any more than the system itself is entirely perfect, but it is the ultimate aim, and cannot be otherwise if our system is to work at all.

But what is political about the *fact* of gender? (That is political to gender, and the effect of those attitudes, constitute another question, which I shall come to in a moment.) In what way is a woman MP politically different, solely because of her sex, from a male one? For the life of me, I cannot see any answer to that question other than nonsense (which I trust The 300 Group itself would repudiate) like the argument that women would bring a gentler touch to policies, would persuade of their masculine arms, would use "feminine intuition" to solve the problems of inflation, unemployment and Northern Ireland. All such arguments patronize and diminish women, rather than respecting and enhancing them, and I trust that no serious supporter of equality for women would embrace them (the arguments, that is).

If women, solely because of their numbers, ought to be half of Parliament, what about homosexuals? I don't know what the latest imaginary figure for the proportion of homosexuals in the population is supposed to be - I last saw it passing

At this point I must put my head out very cautiously, from under the bedclothes. There is no doubt that women are discriminated against, by those charged with the selection of Tory and Labour parliamentary candidates (and I do not believe the Alliance is really any better), and that they are discriminated against because they are women.

This is illogical and unfair; it also lowers the quality of Parliament, in that, whenever a better candidate is passed over for a worse, Parliament (and we) lose something valuable, and it seems to me clear that worse candidates are preferred to better ones only, in general, when the better is a woman. The result of this discrimination can be seen in the numbers of women who sit in the

House of Commons at this moment; not many more than 20; I am unable to believe that of all the women who went forward for candidates only this pitiful number were more qualified than their male rivals, or for that matter that those who did not even get on to the short list were inferior to all the men who did.

What can we do about it? Obviously, only one thing: change attitudes. How best can we change attitudes? I am not one of those who think that since legislation cannot itself make us virtuous, it should never be employed where virtue is required: the legal prohibition against discrimination on a basis of colour will not rapidly stop people hating or despising those of darker hue than themselves, but it will stop hoteliers hanging out signs saying "No niggers here", and who will deny that that is a gain of sorts?

Unfortunately, the problem under discussion is not amenable to legislation: not even the most fanatical member of the 300 Group (I take it) would advocate a law obliging half the constituency parties in the country to choose women candidates for Parliament, and, as I have made clear, I think that it would be a bad idea if such a law could be passed, since however unfair the existing discrimination is, choosing political candidates for non-political reasons would still be disastrously wrong. (And it is, after



all, exactly what the discriminators do.)

What all sensible people want, surely, is the selection of best candidates. That can never be fully achieved, but it is a goal to strive for, and meanwhile it can be approached one step at a time. Moreover, it can only be approached one step at a time. And since the leaders of all the parties are unable, whatever their private opinions, to do anything in public but urge the end of this discrimination, the first step could and should be a vigorous campaign of exhortation (and, if necessary, threat) on the part of our political leaders, directed at their own political followers. (The Tories, with a woman Prime Minister, have less excuse than their opponents, though the Labour Party has an extra handicap in the implacable discriminatory nature of the men.)

Let it be clear, though, that the thrust of any such campaign is against discrimination, not in favour of the kind of principle espoused by the 300 Group. What, after all, would its members do if they fully achieved their object, so that half the members of the House of Commons were women, and then found that in all the constituencies of the other half there was a woman candidate much better qualified than any of the men?

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Blood on a black spot



Before the final terror: Sasi Mkhize with white anti-apartheid campaigners. Two weeks later he was shot.

pathological obsession with racial tidiness, have been seeking to eradicate these black spots which besmirch the face of "white" South Africa.

The Government is secretive about the scale of the removals, and its figures are considered unreliable. The best independent guess is that close to half a million people have been trucked from "black spots" and dumped in usually barren resettlement camps in one or other of the 10 generally impoverished and disease-ridden tribal "homelands" set aside for black occupation. Together they account for no more than 14 per cent of South Africa's land surface.

Then the white constable drove the van out of the fenced yard, stopped, took out a long gun and fired at least two shots. The first hit a tree. The second was aimed directly at Mr Mkhize. The police say the constable acted to save himself from a "frenzied mob". In the unlovely glossary of apartheid, Driefontein is a "black spot", sometimes more euphemistically called a "poorly situated area". The term is used to describe the parcels of land bought freehold by blacks from whites before 1913, when the Native Lands Act prohibited further transactions of this kind. Since they came to power in 1948, the Nationalists, in their

Covering 6,100 acres, it was one of three farms sold by a Willem Gouws to the Native Farmers' Association of Africa Ltd in 1912. This was one of a number of companies set up to buy land for black settlement at a time when many whites were moving to the cities. Two adjoining pieces of black

boreholes, a clinic, a cattle dip and bigger school buildings.

Some years ago government officials went to the village and had the letters "S" or "Z" followed by a number, painted on the doors of houses. At the time, many villagers naively accepted the explanation that the purpose was to improve postal delivery. In fact it was to show who were destined for KaNgwane, the Swazi "homeland", and who were for KwaZulu, the Zulu "homeland", in crude disregard of cross-tribal marriage and family links.

In 1981 the villagers received a letter from a government deputy minister saying that sometimes it was necessary "for people to be encouraged to move for their own ultimate good" and that a dam "of national importance" was to be built which would "inundate some of your properties". In fact it has never been shown that the dam needs to flood more than a small part of the Driefontein area if at all.

The villagers are also aware that they will be taken to the resettlement locations in buses, provided with rations for no more than three days and temporary accommodation in tents or prefabricated shacks.

Mr Mkhize, who was about 48, inherited four properties from his father. He was also a qualified printer and worked in an accountancy firm in Johannesburg. Last December, at a meeting of 3,000 of the villagers, he was elected chairman of a new council of directors. This in effect replaced the previous "cooperatives board" which it was felt, had not been negotiating toughly enough with the government. At one point about 80 landholders had signed affidavids saying they wanted to be moved, but nearly all later said they had done so under threats and pressure.

From December on there was increasing harassment of the villagers by police and government officials. In February, Mr Mkhize's 17-year-old son Paris was beaten up by some men who identified themselves as policemen (though the police denied any responsibility for the incident). On March 19 a magistrate from Walkerton arrived and delivered an ultimatum from the government: the resettlement was going ahead whether the villagers liked it or not, and the counting of houses and people would begin shortly. Two days before he died, Mr Mkhize wrote a letter direct to the Prime Minister, Mr P. W. Botha, beseeching him: "We need your help and we ask for it now".

They have built their own homes, one or two of them quite imposing in stone or brick like the Mkhize homestead, others of more traditional African design. They have also built churches, shops and a primary and a secondary school. The uncertainty of their status, and the worry that if moved they would get no compensation for any improvements, has inhibited them from spending money on other things they need, such as new

Michael Hornsby

David Hewson

Gandhi: the even bigger prize

The *Gandhi* bandwagon has been rolling towards an Oscar success for months. Sir Richard Attenborough's film may not have been pushed with the overwhelming Hollywood razzmatazz of some of its rivals, but it was helped by a very British publicity campaign, quiet and modest, and brimming over with integrity, very much like the picture itself.

It would be a mistake to assume, however, that *Gandhi's* prizes, following as they do, the unexpected win of the best picture award by *Chariots of Fire* last year, spell some form of inevitable recovery for the British film industry. The domestic publicity machine will undoubtedly work overtime in the next few days, much of it aimed at Mr Iain Sproat, the minister who is about to reshape much of the business. It will demand extra tax concessions, levies on the showing of films on television, and more funds for the state-sponsored National Film Finance Corporation.

What will be missing from the clamour is one simple truth behind the decline of British cinema - that the film business started to hit the rocks when it began to make films which the public did not want to see.

Gandhi's Oscars may well do wonders for Goldcrest, the company which made it, but it does not alter the basic fact that an industry that has lost its umbilical cord to public taste can only stagnate. Britain is still a long way from re-establishing a cycle of domestic film production in which an average budget film stands a reasonable chance of recouping its costs.

Last year, according to *Screen International*, 51 major films were made in Britain or by British film units, compared with 24 in 1981. With cinema audiences tumbling, except for major hits like *Gandhi* and *E.T.*, few are likely to show a profit, or convince any foreign distributor of a resurgence in British cinema.

The record of the National Film Finance Corporation has been particularly disappointing. Backed by money from the Eady Levy, the tax on cinema admissions, the NFFC has produced a series of flops, the most disappointing of which was *Lindsay Anderson's* return to film-making, *Britannia Hospital*.

When the results of Mr Sproat's review become known in the next few weeks, it seems likely that the NFFC and the Eady Levy may be ended.

Both actions would be interpreted as an attack on the film industry by those who believe the Government should positively encourage our film-makers.

No one has yet explained adequately why the cinema industry is more deserving of favourable treatment than, say, makers of ball bearings, who may offer steadier employment for more people.

But this should not disguise the fact that there are anomalies in the film industry's ills.

Brian Crozier

When no deal is the best deal

Pactis is the special professional malady of foreign ministries and of career diplomats: the notion that any agreement is better than none. Whether the agreement (accord, pact, treaty, convention, protocol) is intrinsically good or bad is professionally of secondary importance. The pact's the thing.

To be fair, an agreement between friends or natural associates is good, more often than not. The North Atlantic Treaty, for instance, was good, meeting the need for collective defense against Stalin.

Even the Treaty of Rome had its good points, though it would have been better if the insular British had not boycotted the Messina conference of 1955 and had helped to shape a treaty more consistent with Britain's interests, instead of leaving it to the French to make the running.

Where pactis is dangerous is in negotiations with an ideological or political adversary, who regards negotiations as a continuation of war by other means.

I am prompted to these reflections by the bellicose statements of Marshal Kuklikov at the latest meeting of the Warsaw Pact, of which he is commander-in-chief. His words were ostensibly addressed to President Reagan, but in reality to the "peace" demonstrators in the West, who need a good anti-American scare every now and then. He sounded awfully like Khrushchev 20 years ago, boasting: "We will bury you!"

Nothing, of course, could be more desirable than a US-Soviet pact on intermediate-range missiles in Europe, or for that matter on the intercontinental missiles - but only if the outcome preserved or restored the nuclear balance on which peace depends, as the case may be; and only if the pact made adequate provision for inspection. The sky-high stakes do not see everything.

A pact for the sake of reassuring CND would be terrifying.

In fact, all conflicts involving ideological adversaries are soluble if one is prepared to give the adversary what he wants. Neville Chamberlain and Edouard Daladier reached an agreement with Hitler at Munich by the simple expedient of giving him Czechoslovakia. Chamberlain thought this piece of paper had bought "peace in our time". He was, however, need to be clarified.

Another bad agreement of the avoidable future could be a settlement of the Namibian problem. The kind of agreement I have in mind would be one that gave control over South-West Africa to that other surrogate of the Soviet Union, Swaziland. In no time, Admiral Gorshkov would be setting up a naval base in what is now the South African enclave of Walvis Bay, and threatening to undo some of the good of our Falklands victory.

My fingers are firmly crossed.



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ROCK OF AGES

Every spring since about 1850 the Atlantic and Mediterranean Fleets of the Royal Navy have met in Gibraltar and carried out joint exercises. Since 1945, this naval exercise has been called Spring Train. It has usually included both naval manoeuvres and some simulated defence of the Rock against possible assault. Last year, when the Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic were being invaded by a real enemy, there were 24 British warships at anchor in the harbour of Gibraltar.

Until the Lisbon Agreement of 1980, which visualised that the border between the Rock and the mainland would be fully opened, Spain used to mark this British naval activity with diplomatic protest. Indeed there were often protests at the visit of a single warship, particularly a nuclear submarine. The Lisbon Agreement was supposed to trade the unqualified opening of the frontier with an undertaking to start discussions on all outstanding matters between Spain and Britain. After it was signed, the diplomatic protests stopped.

In the event Lisbon was never implemented, since the date chosen followed too closely on the dispatch of the task force to recover the Falklands and Spaniards of all political persuasions became seized by an emotional rapport with Argentina. Throughout the Falklands campaign the Spanish press cracked with hostility to Britain. There was an obvious identification between the Argentine attitude to "Las Malvinas", and every Spaniard's desire to reabsorb Gibraltar into Spain.

Now Spain's new Socialist government has reactivated the

Spanish protest at Spring Train and has threatened to take "appropriate measures" to see that Spain's interests will not be prejudiced. Madrid has overreacted to the perfectly legitimate presence of the British fleet. That is sad, but politically understandable. In Spain post-Falkland emotions still run high. There could be no more obvious trigger to them than the spectacle of a British Task Force – even to the inclusion of HMS Invincible – carrying out manoeuvres in an area of great political sensitivity off the southern coast of Spain. That sensitivity is not just caused by the memory of last year's warfare in the South Atlantic, when Spanish-speaking forces were humiliated, but also by the delicacy of Spain's uncertain membership of NATO.

Ironically it is in the field of naval cooperation between Britain and Spain within NATO that both countries could achieve most progress towards some sort of normality in arrangements over Gibraltar. The most likely outcome of Spain's membership being ratified by referendum, for instance, would be a new Nato naval command, in which a British admiral in Gibraltar would operate under the overall direction of a Spanish commander-in-chief. In those circumstances, next year's exercise Spring Train would be able to celebrate a fruitful, if functional, reconciliation between the two navies, entirely without prejudice to the difficult political discussions which should follow a full opening of the border.

Sadly the Spanish Government has not fully raised its siege

so the Lisbon Agreement still remains to be implemented. Such a state of affairs would be inconceivable between two NATO allies with democratically elected governments. It would be even more inconceivable, indeed intolerable, between two members of the EEC, assuming that Spain's application to join is ultimately accepted. Moreover the partial opening of the frontier to Spanish and Gibraltarian pedestrians has been grossly discriminatory. Gibraltarians can buy fresh produce in Spain and carry it home, but Spaniards are not allowed to do the reverse. No tourists are allowed to cross from Gibraltar into Spain, so that Gibraltar's tourist industry cannot as yet be revived. The estimated cash outflow from Gibraltar into Spain is thus running at between £100,000 and £150,000 per week and has given rise to many complaints by Gibraltar's Chamber of Commerce pressing its Government to retaliate in some way.

So there are points to be made by both sides. The wider interest must surely be to get over this momentary unpleasantness in relations and proceed to a point where a democratic Spain is a member both of NATO and of the European Community. From the British point of view that would not only enhance both the Alliance and the Community. It would also ensure that a democratic Spain, in spite of its feelings and ambitions for Gibraltar, would fully understand the democratic necessity for Britain to honour its pledge under the Gibraltar constitution to respect the wishes of the Gibraltarians on the issue of sovereignty.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN BARBER (Director, British Refugee Council),
BRIAN WALKER (Director General, Oxfam),
JOHN A. CUMBER (Director General, Save the Children Fund),
JOYCE PEARCE (Executive Chairman, Ockenden Venture),
The British Refugee Council, Bondway House, 3/9 Bondway, SW8.

OF BACKBENCHERS, BABY AND BATHWATER

Mr Norman St John-Stevens's Parliamentary Control of Expenditure (Reform) Bill has made considerable progress in its committee stage. The Comptroller and Auditor General, invented by Mr Gladstone in 1866 as a means of ensuring probity in the public finances, has had his powers substantially strengthened. Mr St John-Stevens has brought the Treasury and its Chief Secretary, Mr Leon Brittan, a long way in persuading them to agree that the Comptroller shall be in future an official of the House of Commons and that his right to pursue value-for-money, plus efficiency and effectiveness investigations, should be set in statute as Gladstone enshrined his traditional audit powers in the Exchequer and Audit Act. In future, the Commons' back-benchers, most notably the Chairman of the Select Committee on Public Accounts, will enjoy an effective veto over whom is appointed to the Comptrollership, though the Prime Minister will continue formally to recommend the name of the appointee.

These reforms may sound arcane to the layman. But they are the very stuff of backbench power. Yet, when Standing Committee C reconvenes this morning after the Easter recess it will meet in an atmosphere of sourness and recrimination. For the reformers have fallen out.

The acrimony arises from the

compromise reached between Mr St John-Stevens and Mr Brittan on how the nationalised industries shall be audited on behalf of Parliament and who shall do it. The original version of the bill would have enabled the Comptroller and Auditor General to assign staff from his Exchequer and Audit Department to examine the books of public bodies 50 per cent or more of whose finance was furnished from the public purse.

The Nationalised Industries Chairman's Group was incensed. The Treasury and the Department of Industry counter-attacked on the chairman's behalf.

Under the new clause which enshrines the St John-Stevens-Brittan concordat, an audit of economy, efficiency and effectiveness will be carried out annually within each nationalised industry. The field to be investigated will be decided by the industry's sponsoring minister, the Public Accounts Committee and the select committee which monitors the work of the body concerned. The auditor concerned will not be a member of the Comptroller's staff, though the Comptroller will be able to comment on what he uncovers. The results will be reported to Parliament. The sponsoring minister, after consultation with the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, can ex-

clude from release, "any matters the publication of which would in his opinion prejudice national security or seriously and prejudicially affect the interests of the body in question or any other person".

Several MPs on Standing Committee C regard the new clause as not merely useless, but positively harmful. They argue that for a nationalised industry audit to be truly independent, it should be carried out by the Comptroller and the cost borne by Parliament. They do not want a "bonanza" for private accountants.

The dissenters are sufficiently enraged to arouse fears that the bill as a whole might be wrecked.

Clause 22 might be defeated in committee today, though it will probably scrape through. If it does, Labour MPs in general could be moved to kill it at the report stage.

To lose the gains already won at committee stage in the shape of new powers for the Comptroller would be tragic. The exponents of backbench power should agree at least to consolidate gains on the Comptroller's role. For its part, the Government should make amends for the earlier antipathy by taking the Bill over and finding sufficient time on the floor of the Commons to ensure its passage, with or without the controversial clause.

Yours faithfully,
D. BRYCE-SMITH,
Professor of Organic Chemistry,
Department of Chemistry,
The University,
Whiteknights Park,
Reading,
Berks.

NO PLINTH, NO PILLAR

Arguments in favour of building a European pillar within the frame work of Nato have been fashionable for more than a decade at least. Unlike those in favour of motherhood and apple pie, they have not gone entirely unopposed. But the "ays" have usually outnumbered the "noes" within the forum of an intellectual debate. Now the report by Chatham House and others has swelled the chorus of assent.

Many Europeans have lost confidence in the leadership from Washington, and resent having to play second fiddle. Many Americans have lost confidence in the willingness of Europeans to shoulder their fair share of the defence burden – and resent having to redress the balance of the Old World without an appropriate display of gratitude. The European allies in fact still provide the bulk of Nato's ground and air defences in situ – and it is equally true that American motives are not simply altruistic. But the perceptions are none the less important and if the dissatisfaction which emerges on both sides of the Atlantic from time to time could be removed – then Nato would be the better for it.

Ideally pillars should grow naturally, developing slowly like stalagmites as opposed to springing up overnight as it were – like monuments. Ideas at some stage have to coalesce before being

given practical form. But the inspiration behind any such development within the Atlantic alliance should be deeply and universally felt if it is going to be more than a nine days' wonder. Whether this is now the case is very doubtful. Arguments heard now differ little from those which were being expressed in the early 1970s and while the dissent is still louder than the assent, it is far from being united.

One of the difficulties is that those in favour of strengthening the European pillar cannot decide upon the plinth. Should it be the European Community – as is favoured in this latest plea? Or should it be the Eurogroup, the tangential body of European powers which already exists within Nato? Or indeed should it not be the Western European Union (WEU), now quietly moribund – but, in French eyes anyway, capable of resuscitation?

There are arguments for and against adopting any of these as the basis for a more distinctly European contribution to the cause of Western defence. In many ways the WEU would be ideal, particularly as it has the support of the French – and to build a European pillar without winning the judgment of Paris would be plainly absurd.

The chief advantage of the Eurogroup is that it exists and works – though in a rather more limited sense than is here envisaged. (And it is within Nato already). The European Community by contrast is entirely distinct from Nato, although it is true that its machinery for coordinating foreign policies where practicable is working very well. The Community includes Ireland which is non-Nato, and does not contain Norway – but those are anomalies which are not insuperable. On balance the choice of the Community is arguable but not irresistibly so. Moreover to suggest that a European pillar should be built within Nato just to help strengthen the Community is the kind of argument which is, without wishing to cause offence, Irish.

The latest report carefully and rightly distinguishes between a defence community in Europe which would exist without the United States, and the concept of a European voice within the alliance. Even so, however right-minded one may be, the danger of splitting the alliance into two camps is a real one – and one which Nato, for all its imperfections, has so far just managed to avoid. We should not run the risk of driving the Americans back to their own tents, by accident or design.

I recognize that if the United States is permitted to achieve an unimpeded reinforcement of Nato's central region the Pact's ratio advantages will no longer increase after the first

Aid to Cambodian refugees

From the Director of The British Refugee Council and others

Sir, Your leader (April 7) focuses attention on the continuing plight of Cambodian refugees in Thailand and of at least 150,000 innocent Cambodian civilians caught in crowded temporary villages astride the Thai-Cambodian border.

These people are prevented from entering Thailand by the Thai Army and prevented from returning to the interior of Cambodia by their own guards and the Vietnamese Army. Their situation is at best precarious when an uneasy peace prevails on the border. Now that battles are raging, their lives are in constant danger from shelling, mines and bullets.

While we must accept that protracted negotiations will be necessary before a settlement is reached in Kampuchea, there is one improvement which humanitarian organizations can and must achieve immediately, in spite of any political objections.

Some Cambodian civilians, both in camps in Thailand and on the border, would wish to return to their home villages in Cambodia, if only a safe route could be found. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees has been trying to identify such a route for over two years, but has been unable to reach agreement with the political authorities involved. In view of the constant threat to their lives, this failure to offer safe passage to their villages of origin unnecessarily perpetuates the suffering of people, many of whom are the innocent victims of conflict.

The British Refugee Council and its member agencies which have programmes in the area are willing to support the High Commissioner in his efforts to identify safe routes, make available transport and use his good offices with the Governments of Thailand and Cambodia to agree a solution to the problem. We urge the British Government to use all available diplomatic means to persuade those involved to cooperate fully in this essential humanitarian operation.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN BARBER (Director, British Refugee Council),
BRIAN WALKER (Director General, Oxfam),
JOHN A. CUMBER (Director General, Save the Children Fund),
JOYCE PEARCE (Executive Chairman, Ockenden Venture),
The British Refugee Council, Bondway House, 3/9 Bondway, SW8.

III effects of lead

From Professor D. Bryce-Smith

Sir, The letter of April 6 from Miss Smith and others on the politically sensitive issue of lead pollution and mental performance in children fails in its stated objective to clarify the authors' views. Concerning their unpublished findings, they state that "Once the effect of social factors is removed from the equation, differences in performance between children with higher and lower lead levels were substantially reduced to a level that was not significant statistically."

Unfortunately, one cannot "remove" social factors in this way without simultaneously removing part of the contribution due to lead intoxication, for the reason that social factors and lead do not operate independently on the child.

For example, it is well known that the toxic effects of lead can be greatly intensified by poor diet and social stress, both of which factors also tend to relate to social class etc. It therefore appears that statistical procedures have been employed which would tend to underestimate any contribution due to lead.

The authors should publish their findings in full for peer review, as soon as possible, rather than releasing them in drab and drab.

Yours faithfully,
D. BRYCE-SMITH,
Professor of Organic Chemistry,
Department of Chemistry,
The University,
Whiteknights Park,
Reading,
Berks.

Nuclear balance

From Dr Geoffrey Lee Williams

Sir, Why cannot we have the truth, asks Mr William Shepherd (April 2), about the military balance in Europe. He asserts that misleading figures are constantly quoted as to the number of forces deployed on the ground in both Nato and the Warsaw Pact. His implication that Soviet military capabilities in Europe are less impressive than they appear must be challenged.

First, the existing balance of forces provides the Warsaw Pact with an advantage of approximately 1.5 to one and two to one in combat power (measured in terms of armoured division equivalent – a method that attempts to equalize differences in combat power of different types of divisions).

The Pact also possesses a three to one advantage in tanks, a two to one advantage in armoured personnel carriers, at least a three to one advantage in conventional artillery, and at least a 2.4 to one advantage in tactical aircraft.

The Warsaw Pact is indubitably capable of a much faster build-up of combat power (the Soviet Union possesses a huge pool of trained reserves on which to draw). Therefore it seems to me obvious that when viewing quantitative ratios, the maximum Pact advantage would be quickly gained within several weeks after the decision to mobilize. I recognize that if the United States is permitted to achieve an unimpeded reinforcement of Nato's central region the Pact's ratio advantages will no longer increase after the first

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Human life and post-coital pill

From Professor Gianville Williams QC, FBA

Sir, When I said in my Carpenter lectures in 1956, as Mr J. M. Finniss quotes (April 5), that "the focus is a human life to be protected by the criminal law from the moment when the ovum is fertilised", I was stating the general opinion at the law; but my concern was to criticise it. In fact the precise time from which the developing ovum is protected by law had not been, and still has not been, legislatively or judicially determined.

Until 1803 the common law of the royal courts took the sensible view that abortion was not punishable before quickening, i.e. about mid-term. Parliament, regrettably, removed this limitation in that year, but the statute still defined the crime as "using means with intent to procure a miscarriage" and this remains the wording of the law. The question is what was meant by "miscarriage".

In my book based on the lectures (*The Sanctity of Life and the Criminal Law*) I quoted medical statements that the word "miscarriage" formerly applied only after the sixteenth week (British) or twenty-eighth week (United States), the term "abortion" being used for the period before that. It can, therefore, be argued with considerable force that when Parliament abolished the limitation for quickening in 1803 it did not mean to extend the law back to the time of fertilisation (that is, to the period to which the term "abortion" was then medically confined). Why, otherwise, did Parliament choose the word "miscarriage" instead of and to the exclusion of "abortion"? It may be suggested that all that Parliament meant to do was to dispense with the need for proof of the woman's experience of quickening, while retaining the need to prove that the foetus had reached a fairly advanced stage of development – say, four months.

The present proposal for reinterpreting the word "miscarriage" is much more modest than this. It dates from the report of an advisory group established by the British Council of Churches in 1962, which suggested that for legal purposes conception should be taken to commence with the implantation of

the blastocyst in the womb, i.e. about two weeks after fertilisation.

This offered a slight relaxation of the rigid ideas then prevailing, and, most important, it now offers a conceptual means of legalising not merely the useful post-coital pill but IUDs and also the "contraceptive" pill, which can work by preventing implantation rather than fertilisation. General opinion has come to realise that the consequences of any other view are too absurd for contemplation.

Mr Finniss, like other out-and-out anti-abortionists, rests his case principally upon a verbal argument in his language and, he thinks, in common speech, a fertilised ovum is a "child", and he pleads that we must not "deprive the human being of just protection during its first two weeks of life". But is a fertilised ovum a child, and is it a human being? Of course one can use language to break down the distinction between the seed and the developed organism; one could speak of an acorn as a "quercine being", along with the oak tree; but that would not hoodwink anyone into thinking that an acorn is an oak. By "human being", in common speech, we refer to a human organism of a certain stage of development.

Historically, the extreme anti-abortion case rests upon theological speculation, which still influences it even though the theology is now discreetly relegated to the background. The fertilised ovum must be protected because the soul enters with fertilisation. But then there is the awkward phenomenon of the single ovum becoming twins, or quintuplets. Using the language of the soul, either you must say that the quins owed their origin to a fertilised ovum inhabited by five souls, or you must say that the single soul in the fertilised ovum subsequently divided into five souls.

Would it not be more sensible, from every point of view, to agree that the question must not be considered at least within the first two weeks of fertilisation?

Yours faithfully,
GLANVILLE WILLIAMS,
Merion Gate,
Gazeley Road,
Cambridge.
April 6.

Hard hearts and Third World

From Mr Hallam Murray

Sir, It saddens me greatly to read Peter Bauer and Basil Yamie's article ("Why we should close our purse to the Third World", April 11). How extraordinary that two such eminent professors should take such a black and white view of this complex issue.

Government-to-government aid is just one aspect of international aid. Although the sums of money are large indeed, the two professors make no mention whatsoever of the value of the countless thousands of programmes financed by the independent aid organizations situated throughout most of the developed world. By and large, the aid programmes run by these organizations are less troubled by government interference and are more easily monitored in terms of cost-effectiveness.

Whether or not it is correct to assume that aid cannot significantly promote Third World development, surely such areas as disaster relief and the provision of fresh water supplies are reasons enough not to close our purses, whether national or private. What is needed is a more careful control of where and on what this money is spent.

Yours faithfully,
HALLAM MURRAY,
97 Shunwell Road, SW1.

April 11.

Design for living

From Professor Bruce Archer

Sir, My former colleague, Mr Brian P. Smith should not be allowed to get away scot-free with his outrageous comments (April 8) on the role of the art colleges in design education. In asserting that design education should be got out of the art schools, Mr Smith iterates two widely held misconceptions, about which he should know better, and then jumps to an unwarrantable conclusion.

Firstly he asks the rhetorical question, "Where can most young people study design except at colleges of art-and-design?" He implies that the answer is "across", but this is not the case. Design is also studied in schools of architecture, engineering and everywhere that the configuration of things and systems is a matter of concern. Design is a ubiquitous concept, like literacy, numeracy and scientific awareness. This has been the whole point of the correspondence which Mr Smith admits he was late in noticing.

Secondly, he states that manufacturing industries suspect the products of the schools of art and design. Whatever be may mean by this sweeping generalisation, it is manifestly not the case that the relevant industries fail to take graduates of the art schools into their employ.

Indeed, there can be few departments of universities and polytechnics whose records of take-up into industrial employment could outshine those of most of the design departments of most of the colleges of art in Britain. To imply anything else flies in the face of the facts.</

Investment and Finance
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STOCK EXCHANGES
FT Index 587.7 up 3.8
FT Glass 82.49 down 0.26
FT All Shares 433.66 up 5.44
Bargains 24.304

Tring Hall USM Index 170.7 up 0.4

Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Average 8,488.63 down 6.56

Hongkong Hang Seng Index 1,052.40 up 10.54

New York Dow Jones Average (latest) 1,140.87 down 0.96

CURRENCIES
LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.5415 up 1.45 cents

Index 82.0 up 0.4

DM 3.7375

FrF 11.1950

Yen 368.50

Dollar
Index 122.1 up 0.1

DM 2.4235

Gold
\$432.25 up \$2.25
NEW YORK LATEST
Gold \$432.10

Sterling \$1.5353

INTEREST RATES
Domestic rates
Base rates 10%

3 month interbank 10% - 10%

Euro-currency rates
3 month dollar 9% - 9%

3 month DM 5% - 5%

3 month FF 13% - 13%

ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling

Export Finance Scheme IV

Average reference rates for interest period March 2 to April 5, 1983 inclusive: 10.974 per cent.

PRICE CHANGES
Johnstone 330p, up 34p

Peko Walpole 360p, up 30p

Elstib Gold 233p, up 21p

Mitford Docks 75p, up 20p

Mercurial 340p, up 20p

Can Oceans 310p, up 20p

Acrow 'A' 16p, up 1p

Atlantic Met 89p, down 8p

Davy Corp 58p, down 4p

GKN 162p, down 16p

Johnson & PB 5p, down 1p

Steel Bros 315p, down 25p

TODAY
Interiors Kalamazoo, Petland

Finals Astbury and Madeley (Higgs), British Mohair Spinners, Burnham On T. J. Dewhurst

Empire Stores (Bradford), Gil and Duffus, James Finlay, Hewden/Stuart, Plant, Higgs and Hill, Huntley, Oil and Gas Production, Offield Inspection Services, Pearl Assurance, Rockware, Royal Worcester, Williams Sindal, George Spencer.

Economic statistics Central Government transactions (incl. borrowing requirements) (March).

BTR offer
next week
BTR's formal offer document
for its massive but unwasted bid for Thomas Tilling is expected early next week soon after Tilling produced its report and accounts for last year, written before the bid materialized.

Tilling's defence document, expected to include good figures for the present year, is not likely to appear until near the end of the three-week period to the first closing date which follows the formal bid.

Tilling intends to fight hard all along the way. It will not let BTR have the share register until the last possible moment — Friday — and will have to address each one individually.

ZERO GROWTH: Latin America's economic growth this year is likely to be zero, but could rise to between 4 and 6 per cent again by 1985, the World Bank says in its latest economic forecast for the region. But president Mr A. W. "Tom" Clausen said that the Bank had been restrained in its help for the poorest countries because of "weakening" US support.

REBASING: The official national accounts statistics are to be rebased on 1980 = 100 this year instead of 1975 = 100 as they are now, the Central Statistical Office said yesterday.

HARRODS DATE: Shareholders of House of Fraser will decide on Friday, May 6 on the board's resolution over whether Harrods should be demerged from the rest of the department stores group. A document containing the arguments of the majority of the board on why it should not be separated will also be dispatched to shareholders yesterday but was delayed by a technical hitch at the printers.

Dow dips after passing record

New York (Reuters) — Stock prices ended mixed in morning trading yesterday as investors took profits after the Dow Jones Industrial average passed its record closing high.

The Dow rose 4.55 points in the first hour of trading, to 1,146.36, surpassing its high close of 1,143.90 set on March 24. It then slipped and by mid-morning was three points lower at about 1,138.50.

Advances continued to lead declines by a ratio of seven to six.

Analysts said the market continued to find support from decline-in-interest rates. The key Federal funds rate, on overnight loans between banks, opened at 8% per cent yesterday morning, down from Monday's close of 8.2% per cent. Fed funds were above 9 per cent all last week.

Technology stocks, Monday's market leaders, were among the morning's losers, including IBM, off 5%, to 106. Digital Equipment, 1% to 119.4, NCR 1% to 106 and Honeywell 1% to 91.2.

Phillips Petroleum was down 1/2%, Great Northern Nekoosa was up 1/2% to 43%. Georgia-Pacific was unchanged at 25.2.

Fed calls for lower deficits

 From Bailey Morris
 Washington

Interest rates are too high to sustain a long-term recovery, but should not prevent a short-term upturn in the American economy, according to Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board.

Mr Volcker told the House Banking Committee: "If the inflation outlook is as good as I think it is, then interest rates are higher now than they should be and too high to sustain a recovery in the long term." The way to tackle the problem was to reduce soaring Federal budget deficits, Mr Volcker said.

Financial markets had to be convinced that Federal deficits would be lowered and the fight against inflation would be continued before rates would move appreciably lower, he said.

In addition, banks should take steps to lower rates by cutting "on the deposit side, when rates are concerned."

"I'd be on the deposit side, and if I can't opportunity to help my financial institution by being on the leading edge of interest rate cuts, I'd take it," Mr Volcker said, in what was regarded as a warning to banks.

Over the short term, however, Mr Volcker was more hopeful, estimating that the central bank "can expect a moderate recovery this year" of growth in the 2% to 4% per cent range.

It is possible that growth will be even stronger in the short run if the inflation rate continues to drop below expected levels and consumers' spending picks up.

Because the short-term outlook appeared good, Mr Volcker indicated that the Central Bank would stay with its present monetary policies which allowed more flexible money growth which only recently appeared to be under control by the central bank.

Mr Volcker gave no hint of whether the Fed had tightened credit or intended to do so in the future, saying that he expected recent bursts in the money supply to slow down in the months ahead, due to natural market corrections.

He said the Central Bank had continued its policy of putting less emphasis on growth in the M1 money supply, but added that prolonged vigorous growth in that test indicator "would be cause for concern."

Mr Volcker also stated strong opposition to Congressional efforts to influence the policies of the Central Bank by requiring it to state specifically its employment and growth objectives on a year-by-year basis.

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In addition to the 14 per cent

Sir Jeremy Morse's radical plan to change financial system
Bank chairman seeks greater role for IMF and World Bank

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Sir Jeremy Morse, chairman of Lloyd's Bank and an internationally respected banker, has drawn up a five-point programme for a new world economic order in advance of the Williamsburg summit next month.

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INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK • edited by Sally White

Lower profits dent Smiths share price

Smiths Industries
Half-year to 29.3.82
Pretax profit £9.5m (£11.2m)
Turnover £183m (£187m)
Net interim 4p (same)
Share price 41p down 11p Yield
5.6%
Dividend payable 13.5.83

In the industrial companies, there was a fall from £2.7m to £1.8m at the trading level and there seems little chance of improved volumes.

The Australian and South African companies had a sharp setback, with sales slightly lower at £39m, and profits down from £3m to £2.000. The drop reflected recession in both countries, but although those economies are still in the doldrums, Smiths reports improvements in trading, although it believes results will be substantially lower for the year as a whole.

Smiths says that apart from aerospace, medical and Australia and South Africa the rest of the business will find trading difficult for the rest of this year.

Forecasts of £26m or slightly less for 1983 make the prospective price earnings ratio of over 16 times earnings look expensive.

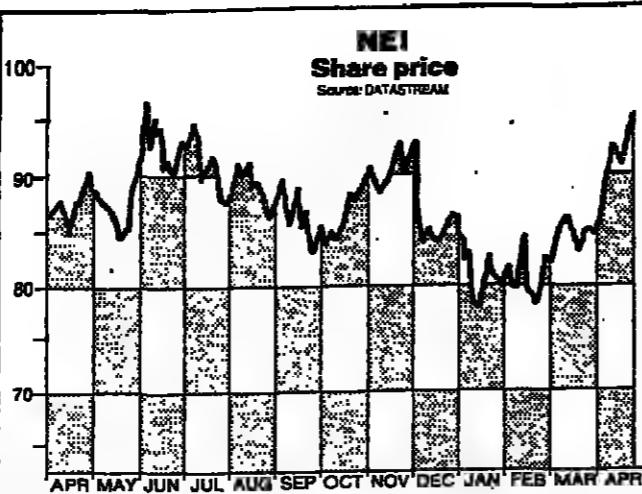
Northern Engineering

Northern Engineering Industries
Year to 31.12.82
Pretax profit £6.4m, and is expected to show little improvement compared with last year's second half. Turnover £86.7m (£72.1m)

Net final dividend 3.25p mkg 4.75p
Share price 66p + 3p Yield 7%

NEI's workload has been good throughout last year, with work for both the Heysham II and Torness nuclear power stations.

There have been rises, too, in



another £3m to reduce debt further.

Plans for five new Comfort inns are well advanced and will cost Comfort only £1m: its quoted but unnamed property partner will put up the balance of £9m.

Occupancy rates last year were better than in 1981, with bookings indicating that 1983

will be similar.

Comfort Hotels International
Year to 20.12.83
Pretax profit £1.3m (£274.000)
Stated earnings 1.84p (0.1p)
Turnover £26.5m (£24.1p)
Net dividend 0.85p (0.6p)
Share price 32p Yield 2.9%

could see an improvement of perhaps 5 per cent, only six months after a similar rise.

The return of tourists to London should benefit the hotels. Strikes restaurants and the Daybliss ice cream parlours. Strikes are at last to get a quote on the Unlisted Securities Market.

Overseas, the losses from the Netherlands have been much reduced and profits are expected this year.

Comfort Hotels International

The figures for Comfort Hotels International are not unreasonable, given the state of the industry, but the company gearing than is warranted.

However, the sale and lease-back arrangements with Routemaster have already brought in £3m, reducing borrowings to £16m. Completion of outstanding deals will soon bring on

considering Bowshires Holdings' disappointing interim figures, the profit for the year of £1.4m against £1.1m could have been worse. But it looks as though the electrical engineering company is still waiting for more recovery in Germany, Australia and South Africa and further improvement in the US. A stronger world economy could take profits to more than £1.4m this year, helped by the rights issue cash.

Reynold and Peebles electrical businesses which have seen a marked turn round over the last two years. As a result the British businesses have accounted for a higher proportion of pretax profits.

Operations in Britain accounted for £30m of profit but 48 per cent of orders were for export.

The South African subsidiary reported a 36 per cent rise in profits, and has a record order book.

NEI is going into 1983 with a record order book, and a positive cash flow - bank balances and deposits exceeded total borrowings by £3m.

On this basis the company has increased the dividend, and at the rate of progress shown over the last four years should be able to continue to do so.

Annual Report 1982.

In a difficult year, our figures only tell you half the story.

HALF THE STORY.

| £M | 1982 | 1981 |
|---------------------|-------|-------|
| Premium Income | 1,358 | 1,157 |
| Underwriting Losses | 153.8 | 52.9 |
| Investment Income | 195.5 | 156.9 |
| Pre-Tax Profit | 44.5 | 104.9 |
| Tax | (9.1) | 31.7 |
| Attributable Profit | 53.6 | 73.2 |
| Earnings per Share | 31.3p | 43.7p |

THE OTHER HALF.

RESERVES

Exchange rate movements added to the sterling measure of our net assets overseas and, together with favourable developments in investment values, combined to produce total surplus funds of £923 million and a world-wide solvency margin of 75% - a clear demonstration of the strength of our financial resources and the security this gives to all our policyholders.

DIVIDEND

The Board are recommending a final dividend of 9.5p per share, making a total of 17p per share, an increase of 4.6%. Despite the earnings decline, the Board consider some small dividend progression justified by a cover of 1.8 times.

CLAIMS

Our exceptional underwriting losses in the UK highlighted the extent of the insurance protection we provided for our policyholders, both private and commercial, during perhaps the worst winter in living memory. But we believe it is to give just this kind of support that we are in business.

LIFE ASSURANCE

I am pleased to record outstanding results for new individual business in 1982, with increases in both sums assured and premiums well above market average. The figures were boosted by more attractive premium rates for non-smokers, a new bonus series and the first Plain-English life policy in the UK.

MANAGEMENT

As I travel both at home and overseas, I am encouraged to see the skill and dedication of a new generation of management moving into positions of leadership within the Corporation. It is in their hands that our future prosperity will lie.

NEW TECHNOLOGY

Investment in new technology proceeds and although the full benefits remain to be reaped in future years we are already seeing welcome returns in several areas of our operations.

THE WAY AHEAD

I take most comfort from the indications of an incipient economic recovery in the United States. If this is encouraged to gather pace and leads to an end to the long recession elsewhere, then we can begin to hope for an increase in the demand for insurance and some easing of competitive pressures induced by over-capacity.

In the meantime we must resolve that our share of a market still contracting is not defended at any cost.

From the Annual Statement by the Chairman, Mr. Gordon R. Simpson

**General
Accident**

General Accident Fire & Life Assurance Corporation plc.

World Headquarters, General Buildings, Perth, Scotland PH1 5TP.

The complete story of how we did in 1982 is included in our Annual Report for the year. A copy can be obtained by writing to the Secretary at the address above.

COMMODITIES

| LONDON METAL EXCHANGE | | INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Prices in pounds per metric tonne | Prices in dollars per metric tonne | Prices in dollars per metric tonne | Prices in dollars per metric tonne |
| Yesterd. | Close | Yesterd. | Close |
| 1112.50-1113.00 | 1109.00-1110.00 | 1074.00-1075.00 | 1060.00-1062.00 |
| 1099.00-1100.00 | 1085.50-1086.00 | 1053.00-1054.00 | 1040.00-1041.00 |
| 1102.00-1103.00 | 1100.00-1101.00 | 1052.00-1053.00 | 1033.00-1034.00 |
| 1100.00-1101.00 | 1090.00-1092.00 | 1041.00-1042.00 | 1023.00-1024.00 |
| 1101.00-1102.00 | 1087.00-1087.50 | 1038.00-1039.00 | 1019.00-1020.00 |
| 1102.00-1103.00 | 1085.00-1086.00 | 1037.00-1038.00 | 1018.00-1019.00 |
| 1103.00-1104.00 | 1083.00-1084.00 | 1036.00-1037.00 | 1017.00-1018.00 |
| 1104.00-1105.00 | 1081.00-1082.00 | 1035.00-1036.00 | 1016.00-1017.00 |
| 1105.00-1106.00 | 1080.00-1081.00 | 1034.00-1035.00 | 1015.00-1016.00 |
| 1106.00-1107.00 | 1079.00-1080.00 | 1033.00-1034.00 | 1014.00-1015.00 |
| 1107.00-1108.00 | 1078.00-1079.00 | 1032.00-1033.00 | 1013.00-1014.00 |
| 1108.00-1109.00 | 1077.00-1078.00 | 1031.00-1032.00 | 1012.00-1013.00 |
| 1109.00-1110.00 | 1076.00-1077.00 | 1030.00-1031.00 | 1011.00-1012.00 |
| 1110.00-1111.00 | 1075.00-1076.00 | 1029.00-1030.00 | 1010.00-1011.00 |
| 1111.00-1112.00 | 1074.00-1075.00 | 1028.00-1029.00 | 1009.00-1010.00 |
| 1112.00-1113.00 | 1073.00-1074.00 | 1027.00-1028.00 | 1008.00-1009.00 |
| 1113.00-1114.00 | 1072.00-1073.00 | 1026.00-1027.00 | 1007.00-1008.00 |
| 1114.00-1115.00 | 1071.00-1072.00 | 1025.00-1026.00 | 1006.00-1007.00 |
| 1115.00-1116.00 | 1070.00-1071.00 | 1024.00-1025.00 | 1005.00-1006.00 |
| 1116.00-1117.00 | 1069.00-1070.00 | 1023.00-1024.00 | 1004.00-1005.00 |
| 1117.00-1118.00 | 1068.00-1069.00 | 1022.00-1023.00 | 1003.00-1004.00 |
| 1118.00-1119.00 | 1067.00-1068.00 | 1021.00-1022.00 | 1002.00-1003.00 |
| 1119.00-1120.00 | 1066.00-1067.00 | 1020.00-1021.00 | 1001.00-1002.00 |
| 1120.00-1121.00 | 1065.00-1066.00 | 1019.00-1020.00 | 999.00-1000.00 |
| 1121.00-1122.00 | 1064.00-1065.00 | 1018.00-1019.00 | 998.00-999.00 |
| 1122.00-1123.00 | 1063.00-1064.00 | 1017.00-1018.00 | 997.00-998.00 |
| 1123.00-1124.00 | 1062.00-1063.00 | 1016.00-1017.00 | 996.00-997.00 |
| 1124.00-1125.00 | 1061.00-1062.00 | 1015.00-1016.00 | 995.00-996.00 |
| 1125.00-1126.00 | 1060.00-1061.00 | 1014.00-1015.00 | 994.00-995.00 |
| 1126.00-1127.00 | 1059.00-1060.00 | 1013.00-1014.00 | 993.00-994.00 |
| 1127.00-1128.00 | 1058.00-1059.00 | 1012.00-1013.00 | 992.00-993.00 |
| 1128.00-1129.00 | 1057.00-1058.00 | 1011.00-1012.00 | 991.00-992.00 |
| 1129.00-1130.00 | 1056.00-1057.00 | 1010.00-1011.00 | 990.00-991.00 |
| 1130.00-1131.00 | 1055.00-1056.00 | 1009.00-1010.00 | 989.00-990.00 |
| 1131.00-1132.00 | 1054.00-1055.00 | 1008.00-1009.00 | 988.00-989.00 |
| 1132.00-1133.00 | 1053.00-1054.00 | 1007.00-1008.00 | 987.00-988.00 |
| 1133.00-1134.00 | 1052.00-1053.00 | 1006.00-1007.00 | 986.00-987.00 |
| 1134.00-1135.00 | 1051.00-1052.00 | 1005.00-1006.00 | 985.00-986.00 |
| 1135.00-1136.00 | 1050.00-1051.00 | 1004.00-1005.00 | 984.00-985.00 |
| 1136.00-1137.00 | 1049.00-1050.00 | 1003.00-1004.00 | 983.00-984.00 |
| 1137.00-1138.00 | 1048.00-1049.00 | 1002.00-1003.00 | 982.00-983.00 |
| 1138.00-1139.00 | 1047.00-1048.00 | 10 | |

APPOINTMENTS

New joint chief at Aitken Hume

Mr M. G. Scory has been appointed joint chief executive with Mr M. Aitken of the Aitken Hume Group.

Dr G. Hetherington has become deputy chairman of TSL Thermal Syndicate.

Mr David Kern is the new manager and chief economist, market intelligence department, of National Westminster Bank.

Mr Michael Fletcher has been appointed managing director of Planned Savings Group.

Mr B. S. Sheppard becomes a director of Olympic (Redrake).

Mr C. J. M. Parker has been elected chairman of A. Cizard & Sons.

Mr Alan Hadden has been appointed a director of Good Relations Group and chief executive of Good Relations, the consumer public relations subsidiary.

Mr W. M. Alder is the new manager of National Westminster Bank's Bahrain branch.

Mr J. M. Chapman has been appointed finance director of Erskine House Investments.

Mr John P. Clark has been elected to the board of Wigham Poland Pension Consultants.

Mr Colin E. Brown has been appointed a director of Wigham Poland Non Marine.

Mr W. J. Fox is joining the board of LCP Holdings.

Mr John Earl has been made managing director of Haden Drysys International, the industrial finishing and mechanical handling division of Haden.

Mr J. A. Griffiths has joined the board of Initial, in the newly-created position of finance director.

Mr J. W. Moffat has been appointed a managing director of Marley Floors.

Mr W.D.H. Gregson has become a non-executive director of H. Brauner.

Mr G.J.A. Jamieson, a director of Robert Fleming Holdings, has been elected chairman of The Charities Official Investment Fund.

Mr Helmut Sohnen has become a senior vice-chairman of World-Wide Shipping Agency, in Hong Kong. Mr Stephen Y.K. Pao has been appointed as senior executive director of World-Wide Shipping Agency, and also as director of Marine Navigation, the group's affiliate in London.

None but the most steely of monetarists now believes that exchange rates are best left solely to market forces. The wild week-by-week movements of currencies in recent years have often borne little relation to real economic forces.

European governments (with a brief post-election lapse by the Thatcher Government) have not hesitated to buy or sell their own currencies when they see fit, from the "helpful hand on the tiller" advocated by the Bank of England governor to the all-out defiance of the currency pursued - though without conspicuous success - by the French.

But the Americans, whose currency still dominates the world financial scene, refuse to play ball. Their policy of "benign neglect", which has accompanied a soaring dollar, has, Europeans claim, deepened the world recession and held back economic recovery by pushing up interest rates and inflation.

Whether currency intervention, as distinct from more fundamental policy changes, would have made a great deal of difference is doubtful. But the technical intervention issue has become overladen with more political passions.

In microcosm, it represents the war being waged by Europe on American economic isolationism. A retreat from "benign neglect" would, the European camp hopes, pave the way for further modification of US policies to take account of their international repercussions, notably by action to curb rising budget deficits.

To the Europeans' delight, the Americans have scored something of an own goal with their suggestion at last year's Versailles summit for a study on the efficacy of intervention. This successfully defused the issue for a while, as it was intended to do. But the report, due to be published shortly, before the Williamsburg summit next month, supports the European stance.

Though it makes no recommendations, its technical analysis suggests that intervention does work in reducing currency fluctuations.

The study, chaired by M. Philippe Jurgensen, a senior French finance official, draws a distinction between "sterilized" and non-sterilized intervention, according to whether the authorities allow their foreign exchange operations to affect domestic money policy or not.

Intervention, say, to support sterling automatically tightens money conditions at home because the Bank of England is buying pounds and taking them out of circulation. This puts upward pressure on interest rates unless the effect is counteracted or "sterilized".

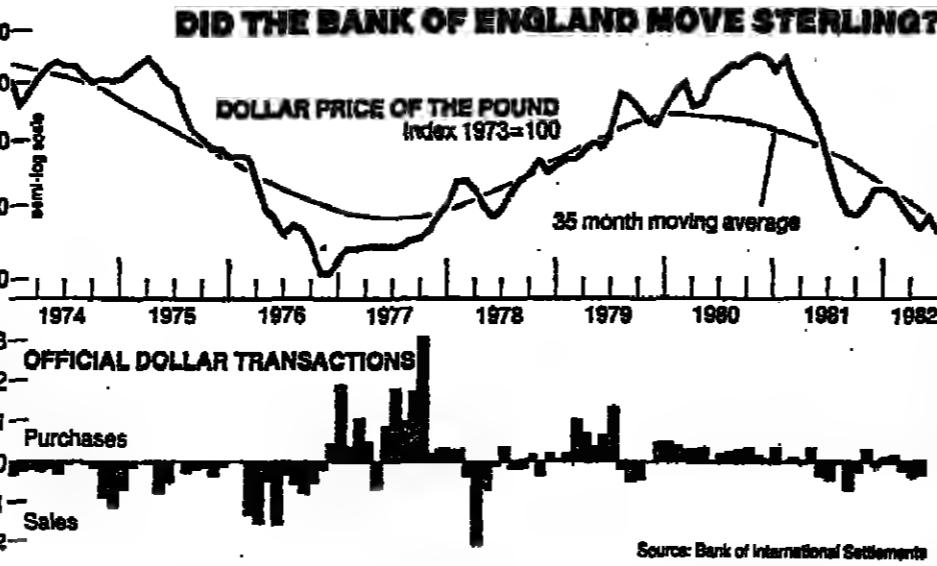
Clearly sterilized intervention is likely to be less effective than if the authorities had allowed money conditions to tighten. Reinforcing action by governments, to squeeze money policy further, will have an even greater impact on the currency than heads of government discuss the issue again.

Further support for the European position comes in another paper published last month by the Bank for International Settlements, the central bankers' club based in Basle.

It concludes, from a study of foreign exchange operations by Britain, Germany and Japan, that official intervention is predominantly stabilizing.

These findings would appear to put the burden of proof on those who argue that the official role in the exchange markets has been primarily unhelpful and will continue to be so in the future", the study says, in an unmistakable sideswipe at the United States.

The paper's authors, whose views broadly reflect those of the BIS, reject the use of a



Source: Bank of International Settlements

Growing call for US currency intervention

The issue has become overladen with political passions

typically been of the sterilized variety because their system of targeting bank reserves would otherwise lead to cash floods or famines in the money markets as dollars drained in or out of the system.

In Europe, where the authorities tend to target broader money measures, intervention has normally been non-sterilized.

In Britain, for instance, the Bank of England offsets the effects of its currency transactions in its money market operations - for the same reasons as the Americans do it. But these transactions would normally affect the main target measures of money growth. The amount of intervention since

1977, when the cap was lifted from sterling, has generally been very small. So, in practice the direct impact on domestic monetary conditions has been negligible.

The fact that American intervention has typically been less effective than European currency operations may provide a facelift for Mr Beryl Sprinkel, US Treasury Undersecretary and arch-opponent of intervention, but it is not going to deflect pressure on the Americans to come into line with heads of government discussing the issue again.

Instead they looked at whether intervention pushed the exchange rate towards or away from its long run equilibrium.

Where the exchange rate was close to its equilibrium level they judged that intervention was helpful if it pushed the currency back towards its last observed level - on the grounds that the authorities may not know precisely where equilibrium lies and may wish to prevent movements going too far.

On the first criterion alone stabilizing interventions outnumber destabilizing interventions between 1974 and 1982 by 2½ to 1 in 1974, and 4 to 1 in Japan. In Britain, the balance was roughly even. Using both tests together the

profitability criterion. This is the most widely used measure of the effectiveness of currency intervention and the one, one surrounded by caveats, on which the Jurgensen study was based.

There are signs that the US may be willing to budge.

Finally, the Americans are beginning to talk openly about the need for changes in the international monetary order. Such calls will meet with cynicism in Europe unless the United States shows itself willing to make concessions.

However, even if agreement on currency intervention is reached, this will do little to ease the more fundamental problem of long run swings in exchange rates which bear little relation to economic performance. The fixed exchange rate system imposed economic convergence between countries through the discipline of balancing their trade.

Now governments are arguing that convergence is a precondition of more stable exchange rates. It will take more than a couple of academic studies to produce agreement here.

ratios were 6 to 1 in Germany and Japan, 2 to 1 in Britain.

The British performance is weakened by the 1977 episode where the authorities intervened massively to stop sterling rising. Since early 1979, the BIS study suggests, stabilizing intervention has been 11 times more frequent on the first criterion and six times more frequent taking the two together.

The object of official intervention, the study suggests, should be to give the currency markets a clearer idea of where the long-run equilibrium level of the exchange rate ought to be.

The prime purpose of official intervention should not be to "outguess the market" but, in conjunction with other policy actions, to create a more stable and predictable environment, the authors say.

There are growing signs that the United States may be willing to budge. The American authorities have recently ventured, on the odd occasion, into markets in exchange operations. In policy terms that represents a defeat for the hardliners, though its impact on the currency will have been negligible.

Mr Anthony Solomon, president of the New York Fed, which carries out US official intervention, said a few days ago that the outline of an understanding on limited intervention could be reached at Williamsburg.

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Now governments are arguing that convergence is a precondition of more stable exchange rates. It will take more than a couple of academic studies to produce agreement here.

Frances Williams

*Official Intervention in the Exchange Markets: stabilising or destabilising? by Helmut Mayer and Hiroo Taguchi (BIS Economic Papers No 6 - March 1983).

Industrial notebook

Aircraft that should be left grounded

Britain's struggling aerospace industry is becoming more strident in its calls on the Government to commit vast sums on Europe's latest, decidedly dubious aircraft.

The A320 is an unnecessary luxury for Britain at the moment. British Aerospace last week reported a dramatic deterioration in its fortunes - from a £70m profit in 1981 to a £15.3m loss last year, the result of a £100m "exceptional provision" to insulate itself from the poor state of the aircraft market.

Rolls-Royce, whose losses have mounted from £2m to £134m over the same period, is now in bed with its archrival, Pratt & Whitney of the United States, to continue work on a new engine to power 150-seater. That project, which also involves Japanese, Italian and German manufacturers, could add £500m to the "lance air" bill presented to Mrs Thatcher.

Boeing has spent about \$40m on its 150-seater, the 7-7, but the plane remains a designer's dream and the company is banking more on the continued success of the 737, of which later versions could be equipped with Rolls' engine. Each way bet in the aircraft business are far safer.

Renewed turbulence now surrounds the A320 with British Airways apparently being nudged by the Government to ape Air France and place some orders. BA buys America's jets and does not want Airbuses but it may find the political pressure irresistible.

At the Paris Air Show next month, the Airbus consortium will no doubt be making confident noises about the A320, but the British Government would be better to remain cautious despite the tempting employment benefits that BA's 30 per cent share in the aircraft would bring.

Meanwhile, Boeing's canny executives are sitting contentedly on the touchline watching with glee as the European governments spar and humming that American duty: "Anything you can do..."

Edward Townsend

| 1982/83 | 1983/84 | 1982/83 | 1983/84 | 1982/83 | 1983/84 | 1982/83 | 1983/84 | 1982/83 | 1983/84 | 1982/83 | 1983/84 | 1982/83 | 1983/84 | 1982/83 | 1983/84 | 1982/83 | 1983/84 | 1982/83 | 1983/84 | |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|
| Authorized Unit Trusts | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Abbey Unit Trusts | | 21.3 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 22.0 | 22.0 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 |
| Abbey Unit Trusts | | 21.3 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 |
| Abbey Unit Trusts | | 21.3 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 |
| Abbey Unit Trusts | | 21.3 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 |
| Abbey Unit Trusts | | 21.3 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 |
| Abbey Unit Trusts | | 21.3 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 |
| Abbey Unit Trusts | | 21.3 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 |
| Abbey Unit Trusts | | 21.3 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 |
| Abbey Unit Trusts | | 21.3 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 |
| Abbey Unit Trusts | | 21.3 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21. | | | | | | | | |

Debenhams at record 125p

ACCOUNT DAY : Dealings Began, Monday. Dealings end, April 22. Contango Day, April 25. Settlement Day, May 3.

BELL'S
SCOTCH WHISKY
BELL'S

Shares of Debenhams, the department store chain, continued to scale new heights yesterday on hopes of a bid once the UDS battle has been decided.

The price rose 7p to a new high of 125p as more than 1 million shares changed hands after hours alone. At this level the group with 67 department stores is valued at £16m. Favourite candidate to make a bid is Mr Gerald Ronson's Heron Group, currently tied up in the Bassishaw consortium bidding for UDS.

Last month National Insurance Guarantee, a subsidiary of Heron, bought more than 1 million shares at around the 118p level. But last night Heron denied it had been buying more shares. On behalf of Mr Ronson, Mr Cyril Spencer, chief executive of Bassishaw, said: "We have definitely not been dealing in Debenhams, and have no intention of making a bid".

However, with a net asset value of 226.3p a share the temptation to make a bid for the company remains great. Debenhams had no comment to make.

Meanwhile, the rest of the equity market showed no signs of running out of steam. Blue chips led the way higher on hopes of an imminent cut in bank base rates with the FT Index closing another 3.8 up at a new peak of 687.7 - for a two-day rise of 12.7.

Shares of Intasun Leisure Group, the holiday tour operators, held steady at 131p despite a large seller of 4.5 million shares - 9% of the equity. The seller is thought to have been a board member who sold below the market price.

Even the surprise £7.2m cash call from GKN, Britain's biggest engineering group, failed to dampen enthusiasm as the price tumbled 16p to 162p. TI Group lost 3p to 162, after 158p.

Gills continued to reflect growing optimism of a cut in base rates and the pound's continued recovery on the

foreign exchange, where it ended up 1.45 cents at \$1.5415. But earlier gains of more than £1 were pared by profit-taking as investors raised cash for application in the new tap, when dealings start tomorrow. In longs, prices ended the day £1.60 easier, while shorts were £1.60 per cent of the shares.

The offer has now gone unconditional.

Meanwhile, Michael Ashcroft's Kean & Scott, has also won its

battle for control of furniture manufacturer, Alpine Holdings,

with the offer now going unconditional. Acceptances totalled 7.8 million shares, including 679,000 shares in respect of the separate cash offer, which accounts for 77 per cent of the company.

Unigroup has placed 1.2 million shares at 50p to raise £573,000. The money will be used to sell its air-based refillable aerosol system.

On the unlisted Securities

Market, shares of Fitch & Co

were unchanged at 125p despite

Monday's figures showing the

group easily exceeding profits

forecasts. The group weighed in

with pretax profits of £875,000

compared with the earlier figure of £825,000.

Milford Docks rallied after

Monday's shake-out with the

price closing 25p dearer at 75p,

still reflecting the recent cash

raising proposals. Earlier this

year, the shares were traded at

around 150p amid hopes of a

long-awaited

share issue.

C. H. Beazer has won control

of Second City Properties by the

75p of its teeth. Acceptances for

its 77p a share bid, valuing the

Birmingham-based property

group at £18.1m, amounted to

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SCOTCH WHISKY
BELL'S

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FOOTBALL: SETBACKS OFF THE FIELD AND ON

Taxing problems for Hartlepool and the League

As another Football League club, Hartlepool United, of the fourth division, admitted that they face financial collapse, a further meeting of League chairmen organized by Jimmy Hill, of Coventry City, has been arranged at Chelsea on April 25.

Mr Hill, who spent six hours with 20 chairmen from first and second division clubs at Coventry on Monday, said: "Perhaps sooner would not have arrived at its present mess if the chairmen had talked their way through their problems in the past."

However, whether this will help Hartlepool is doubtful. The Inland Revenue have filed papers to wind up the club's affairs at the Company's Court in London on Monday.

Hartlepool owe £60,000 in unpaid PAYE contributions but the club's chairman, Wigan Barber, remains hopeful. "This is not the end," he said. "I can save the club again, but probably for the last time."

The club chairmen also have an earlier date in London, on April 26, when they will discuss the Chester Report on the state of the game.

Derby County have paid Bradford City a further £20,000 of the £55,000 compensation ordered by the Football League for the loss last November of their player-manager, Roy McFarland, and his assistant, Mick Jones. There is now only £15,000 outstanding.

Inquiry into 'fixed' Inter match

Rome (AFP) — Another match-fixing scandal has emerged in Italy three years after the one which led to several players being banned and two clubs demoted by the soccer authorities.

The Italian Football Association have launched an inquiry into allegations that members of the Genoa and Inter Milan teams agreed to settle for a 2-2 draw in a league match

Genoa a fortnight ago.

Suspicion were aroused when the Genoa manager, Giorgio Vitali, hurried along at Internazionale after they had scored an extra goal to win 3-1. He said they were "not bad" and he accused Salvatore Bagai, scorer of the third goal, of having broken a non-aggression pact.

Aldo Ferrari-Cibaldi, who is heading the inquiry, said: "Secret betting is still commonplace in Italy despite the Italian FA's efforts to stamp it out."

Confusion over World Cup visits

Mexico City (Agencies) — Senior officials of FIFA, football's governing body, have arrived here to assess the country's application to stage the 1986 World Cup finals.

They were quoted on arrival as saying that they did not plan to visit the United States or Canada after their one-week visit, despite a statement by the FIFA president, Joao Havelange. After protests by those countries, who also applied to stage the competition, he said an inspection visit would take place.

The protests came after FIFA's special committee had announced

SQUASH: SETTLING ARGUMENTS IN BRITISH OPEN

Miss Opie nicks the cream

By Richard Eaton

Miss Opie, the Nottingham-based Guernsey player, and Gamal Awwad, the Dartford-based Egyptian, yesterday earned their chances to succeed Vicki Cardwell, of Australia, and Jahangir Khan, of Pakistan, after winning the British Open, after being sponsored by Davies and Tate at Derby. Awwad reached the final for the fourth time by beating the Australian Dean Williams, 10-8, 9-0, 9-0, and Miss Opie did so for the second successive time, by beating her fellow England international, Anna Smith, 9-0, 9-5, 9-6, 9-7.

Attempting to become the first player other than an Australian, to take the title in 22 years, Miss Opie started as disastrously as Williams finished, losing a game in five minutes, as her concentration wavered to the smudges on the walls, in the distant and invisible referee, along the balconies of the Assembly Rooms — and everywhere but where it should have been.

She was, she said, relieved to have beaten Robyn Blackwood her Chichester conqueror, and was not "humped" by Miss Smith soon saw to it that she was, smiting the ball so that it screamed, and contorting with her opponent the centre of the court like two cats with a single saucer.

Miss Opie awoke, and began to decorate the court with her familiar angles, drops, and nicks; at 7-7 in the fourth game the match grew to its crisis. At that moment the referee, Bob Johnson, warned Miss Smith to "keep your eye on it" to avoid her, a backhand, a drop shot into the nick, and a penalty point, and abruptly the match was over.

Miss Opie, the Nottingham-based

player, too, was warned to stop arguing. He was also advised not to play at all, by a Perth neurosurgeon. He has, by all accounts, suffered from serious back trouble to his coordination and central nervous system since having four wisdom teeth removed just after reaching the final of the World Open. A five minute rally at 8-8 in the first game seemed to finish him. He lost 20 successive points, throwing down his racket instead of completing the last one.

Awad, now trained by Jonal Barrington, was superb. He has complained bitterly about his seedings and within three days has been simply superb, beating Williams, 9-2, 9-2, 9-0, and the No 4, Awwad, is the only man who says he can beat Jahangir, and after their monotonously fascinating two hours and 45 minutes together at Chichester one or two people are beginning to listen to him.

THE RACER'S REPORT: G. Awwad (Egypt) 10-8, 9-0, 9-0, 9-7. Miss Opie (second final) 9-0, 9-5, 9-6, 9-7. Anna Smith (1st final) 9-0, 9-5, 9-6, 9-7. Bob Johnson (ref) 10-8, 9-0, 9-0, 9-7. Miss Opie (1st final) 9-0, 9-5, 9-6, 9-7. Anna Smith (2nd final) 9-0, 9-5, 9-6, 9-7. Bob Johnson (ref) 10-8, 9-0, 9-0, 9-7.

IN BRIEF

England sweep the board

England won all their matches yesterday in the home counties schoolboys' hockey championships, played at the National Indoor Stadium, Sydenham, Kent. In the under-15 tournament in Dublin, England beat Scotland 2-0 and Wales 4-0. A draw for England against Ireland today will be enough to win the title.

At Swanscombe in the under-16 event England beat Scotland 6-0. Scotland were also beaten 4-2 by Wales.

RESULTS: Under-16: England 2, Scotland 0, Wales 1, Scotland 2, England 6, Wales 0, Wales 2, Under-15: England 6, Scotland 0, Wales 4, Scotland 2.

ATHLETICS: Roma (AFP) — Peter Hobbs, president of the British Athletics Association, said yesterday, the Rome International, in the under-15 tournament in Dublin, England beat Scotland 2-0 and Wales 4-0. A draw for England against Ireland today will be enough to win the title.

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1

6.00 Cefax AM. News headlines, weather, sport and traffic reports. Also available to those with a television set without the Teletext facility.

6.30 Breakfast Time with Frank Bough and Selina Scott. News at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hours: regional news, weather and traffic at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15. This morning's guest is Tracey Ultman. Closedown at 9.00.

12.30 News After Noon. 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only). Financial reports followed by news headlines with subtitles). 1.00 Pebble Mill at One includes film of the judging of the National Fashion Awards: a conversation with Anton Dofin; and a song from Britain's Eurovision Song Contest representatives. Sweet Dreams 1.45 The Flumps. 2.00 Lord Byron Lived Here. Peter Porter visits Newstead.

2.15 Racing from Ascot introduced by Richard Priman. Live coverage of the Royal Fernrees Stakes. 2.30 The Post Office Novices Hurdle (3.05). The Meadow Hurdle (3.40). The commentators are Peter O'Sullivan and John Hanmer. 3.52 Regional news (not London).

3.55 Play School. For the under-fives (shown earlier on BBC2). 4.20 Cartoon: Boss Cat. 4.45 Take Hart. 5.05 Newround. 5.10 The Story of the Treasure Seekers. Part two. 5.40 News 6.00 South East at Six.

6.25 Nationwide includes the first of four reports on Our National Health. The reporter is John Hutchins.

6.50 Triangle. Episode four.

7.15 Wildlife on One: Shipwreck. The film that won the Outstanding Short Film at the 1982 International Wildlife Film Festival. The film shows the amazing marine life that is living in and around the wreck of the American Liberty ship, James Egan Lane, which sank in 1945 just off Whitstable Bay in Cornwall.

7.40 Open All Hours. Arkwright decides that he can increase his profits if he cuts out the middle man. What he needs is a product that can be home-made and have a demand.

7.50 Dallas. Bob, who naively thought that he would be with JR for control of Ewing Oil was an even one, has his illusions shattered when he discovers a box of Cuban cigars.

9.00 A Party Political Broadcast on behalf of the Conservative Party.

9.05 News.

9.30 C.E.D.: Faster than the Sun. A trip in Concorde from the flight deck, the passenger cabin and on the ground. But what is the future for the fabulous plane? C.E.D. talks to Sir Stanley Hooker, Pierre Young and Brian Trubshaw.

10.00 Sportsnight introduced by Harry Carpenter. Boxing and Yachting are featured tonight. Desmond Lynam is in Preston for the A.B.A. semifinals and Tony Gubba reports on Britain's latest bid to win the America's Cup. Britain's hopes rest on the 12 metre yacht, Victory, the product of a multi-million pound campaign to produce a challenger.

10.58 News headlines.

11.00 Chicago Story: Submaranean Blues. Detective Wajorski has to infiltrate a gang run by a ruthless hoodlum. Starring Vincent Baggett.

12.10 Weather.

TV-am

6.00 Daybreak presented by Gavin Scott followed at 6.30 by Good Morning with Anne Forde. 7.00 News at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hours: regional news, weather and traffic at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15. This morning's guest is Tracey Ultman. Closedown at 9.15.

ITV/LONDON

9.30 Sesame Street. Learning made fun with the Muppets 10.30 Science International, narrated by Michael Bentine 10.35 Database. A look at what is on offer at the National Computer Centre (r) 11.00 The Wiz with Tom Tamm. A film about the sharks that breed and feed off Florida's western coast 11.30 Film Fun. Comedy and cartoons presented by Derek Griffiths (r) 12.00 Rod, Jane and Freddy with a story about the characters in Wizarr comic 12.10 Rainbow. Learning with puppets 12.30 Play It Again. Ray Alan is Tony Billow's guest and he talks about his career and chooses clips from his favourite films.

1.00 News 1.20 Thamees News with Robin Houston. 1.30 Crown Court. Continuing the case of the nightclubs owner and manager who are accused of manslaughter following a fire on the premises which killed 17 people (1.20) 2.00 Plus

2.30 Racing from Newmarket. Live coverage of the Earl of Selby Stakes (2.35); the Ladbrokes European Free Handicap (3.10); and the Abemant Stakes (4.20) introduced by Brough Scott.

4.00 Rod, Jane and Freddy. A repeat of the programme shown at noon 4.15 Dangerous. Episode three and the professor has a monster problem 4.20 The Scoot Show. A new series featuring Matthew Corbett and his puppets 4.30 Cartoon: Roadrunner in Highway Runney 4.45 Murphy's Law. Part 11 of the drama about a football diva's football club 5.15 Men and Mrs. Three married couples in a quiz to see how much they know about their respective spouse.

5.45 News 6.00 Thamees News 6.25 Help presented by Nancy Robertson

6.35 Crossroads. Oliver Banks and his daughter, Penny, have a distressing scene in public.

7.00 Carry On Laughing. A compilation of some of the more funny moments from the successful series of Carry On films.

7.30 Coronation Street. A public protest meeting against the disco project is organised by Ken Barlow.

8.00 This Is Your Life. Eamonn Andrews and his red book surprise another stunned celebrity.

9.00 Widows. Episode five and the ladies have completed the preparations for the raid on the security van.

10.00 A Party Political Broadcast on behalf of the Conservative Party.

10.05 News followed by Thamees News headlines.

10.35 Thamees Sport Special. Derek Thompson introduces five-a-side football from Wembley Arena where 14 teams are competing for the Standard Party.

11.35 Mamix. When he investigates the theft of a famous diamond collection Mamix meets Hamilton Star, a ruthless villain who is also blind.

12.30 Close with Brian Blessed



David Schofield as Ernest Shackleton: BBC 2 9.30pm

BBC 2

8.55 Open University: Cheddar: Mapping the Mendip Anticline 7.20 Magp in the Web of Art 7.45 Oil & 10.00 Closedown

10.20 Gherber Magazine programme of interest to Asian women. The programme is devoted to the singing Hussain family of London. The parents sing a duet and are accompanied on the drums by their ten-year-old son 10.45 Closedown 11.00 Play School For the under-fives 11.25 Closedown

12.30 Open University: Developing Mathematical Thinking. Measuring 1.20 Closedown

5.10 The Mindful Way. An Open University film about the Buddhist monasteries at Wat Nong Ba Pong, in the forest of north-east Thailand.

5.40 Film: Spare a Copper? Starring George Formby as a sailor on board HMS Hercules the target for a gang of foreign saboteurs. Directed by John Paddy Carstairs.

6.55 Year of the French April: Guardians of the Camargue. A profile of Eric Coulet who, at 23 years old was the youngest ever director of a nature reserve in France and today, ten years later, is still obsessed by the Camargue (r).

7.25 News summary with subtitles

7.30 Ebony. Vince Herbert interviews Len Murray on behalf of black trade unionists who believe they are not fairly treated. Juliet Alexander reports from Jamaica on the feeling about West Indian cricketers touring South Africa; and music is provided by Carroll Thompson

8.00 Raphael. The second of three films celebrating the artist's 500th anniversary. This programme covers Raphael's mature work and includes detailed sequences of the frescos in the Vatican Stanze and Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel

9.00 One Night in Lincoln. Comedy from Mike Harding.

9.30 Shackleton. Part one of a four programme drama tracing the career of one of Britain's greatest explorers. Starring David Schofield as Shackleton.

10.30 A Party Political Broadcast on behalf of the Conservative Party.

10.35 News followed by Thamees News headlines.

11.30 Open University: Disaster Simulation 2: Debriefing 11.55 New Bearings for Old. Closedown at 12.25

12.30 Close with Brian Blessed

● Tonight sees the start of a four-part drama documentary SHACKLETON (BBC 2 9.30pm), an account of the expeditions to Antarctica by the explorer who seemed obsessed by the South Pole. The series begins with the background to why there was so much antagonism between Shackleton and his great rival, Robert Falcon Scott. Filmed in the harsh, snowy, wastelands of East Greenland, the drama captures the harsh realities of early exploration with Shackleton being blamed by Scott for the comparative failure of the 1902 British National Antarctic Expedition because of frail health. This antipathy deepens later on when Shackleton decides to mount an expedition of his own to Antarctica much to Scott's chagrin as he regarded the area as his own personal fiefdom for exploration. David Schofield plays the down-to-

earth, egalitarian, Shackleton with Neil Stacy as the stoic, elated, Scott. ● The work behind putting on an opera is the subject of a new six-part series STAGING AN OPERA (Channel 4 6.30pm). Producing Beethoven's Fidelio for Kent Opera is Jonathan Miller in possibly his last production following his announcement that he intends to resume his medical career. This week Norman Platt, the artistic director, explains his role as well as the history of the company. An entertaining format that should appeal to lovers of opera and the non-committed alike.

● The most persuasive interview series for many a moon receives the accolade of a quick repeat beginning tonight. IN THE

PSYCHIATRIST'S CHAIR (Radio 4 8.45pm) is a personal triumph for Dr Anthony Clare whose persuasive probing elicited hitherto unknown depths of feeling from his interviewees. None more so than tonight's participant, the controversial historian David Irving who talks about himself and those people and events that were a major influence in both his private and professional life.

● Roger Lindsay, that versatile actor last seen on television as Edmund in Olivier's King Lear and before that as the Toofing freedom fighter in Citizen Smith, stars with Pat Coombs in the next little comedy series ALBERT AND ME (Radio 2 10.03pm) about a single, unemployed man with a baby. An unlikely mixture for laughs but scriptwriter Jim Eldridge has managed to make the combination very witty.

CHOICE

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